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 cry until  
 I knew I  
 was going  
 to live'**

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# Tories threaten rebellion as Gove says tax plan is 'not Conservative'

Pippa Crerar  
 Jessica Elgot  
 Peter Walker

Liz Truss is struggling to win over Conservative MPs to back her controversial mini-budget, with some even threatening all-out rebellion amid fears they will once again become known as the "nasty party".

The prime minister was faced with a rising drumbeat of discontent that was overshadowing the Tory conference in Birmingham last night after she insisted she would stand by her plans to scrap the top rate of income tax and ram through spending cuts.

The former cabinet minister Michael Gove launched a broadside at Truss's economic plans, saying it was "not Conservative" to fund tax cuts from borrowing or trimming the welfare budget, and warning that she had to change course or risk her mini-budget being voted down.

However, Kwasi Kwarteng will pledge today to "stay the course" with a "sound, credible" plan, which the chancellor will insist is "backed by an iron-clad commitment" to fiscal discipline, despite the economic turbulence unleashed by his mini-budget.

Truss offered a sliver of remorse for the way it was received after it led to a temporary collapse in the pound, a rebuke from



▲ The chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, and prime minister, Liz Truss, at the Conservative conference in Birmingham yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: HANNAH MCKAY/NEUTERS

## Lula hopeful of victory in Brazilian election

Tom Phillips  
 São Paulo

Brazil's leftwing former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva appeared on the verge of a startling political comeback last night after 156 million citizens took part in Brazil's most important election in decades.

As the veteran ex-president cast his vote, Lula voiced optimism that he would beat the far-right incumbent, Jair Bolsonaro. "We want no



▲ Polls suggested Lula could get enough support to avoid a runoff

more hatred, no more quarrelling, we want a country that lives in peace," the 76-year-old said in São Bernardo do Campo, the city where he cut his teeth as a trade unionist in the 1970s.

Polls on the eve of the election suggested Lula - who governed from 2003 to 2010 - was tantalisingly close to securing the overall majority of votes he needs to avoid a second-round runoff against Bolsonaro in late October. One poll gave Lula 51% to Bolsonaro's 37%; another gave them 50% and 36% respectively.

With 52% of votes counted, Bolsonaro had 46.3% against Lula on nearly 45% - although those numbers were expected to change as votes from traditionally pro-Lula regions were tallied. A Lula

## Survey shows most young people fear for the future

Amelia Hill

More than a third of young people feel their life is spiralling out of control, according to findings released to the Guardian before a nationwide campaign that highlights Covid's impact on the younger generation.

More than 60% of 16- to 25-year-olds surveyed for the Prince's Trust Class of Covid research said they were scared about their generation's

future, having lived through a pandemic only to face a cost-of-living crisis. One in three think their job prospects will never recover from the pandemic.

"Young people today are facing unique challenges



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A group of  
young Tories  
sample the  
merchandise  
during the  
first day of the  
Conservative  
party conference  
in Birmingham  
PHOTOGRAPH:  
ELLIOTT FRANKS

# Tory MPs threaten rebellion over Kwarteng's mini-budget

Continued from page 1

the International Monetary Fund and warnings of interest rate rises.

Truss also sought to quell fury over her handling of the economy but then firmly doubled down on her tax plans and refused to rule out public spending cuts and a real-terms drop in benefits to pay for them. She told the BBC's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg programme: "I do accept we should have laid the ground better ... I have learnt from that and I will make sure that in future we do a better job of laying the ground."

But she added: "I do think there has been too much focus in politics about the optics or how things look – as opposed to the impact they have on our economy."

She said: "I believe in getting value for money for the taxpayer," promising that "excellent public services"

would remain, but warning it would be a "difficult and stormy" winter.

After less than a month in office, Truss has faced criticism from many in her own party after scrapping the cap on bankers' bonuses and axing the 45p tax rate, and has been hammered in the polls.

Insiders admitted concerns that the hall could be half-empty for her speech on Wednesday, with delegates leaving early because of a train strike. WhatsApp messages have been sent to local Tory chairs asking them to encourage members to stay.

As protesters gathered outside the International Convention Centre yesterday, one senior Tory admitted that the "nasty party" tag – the label Theresa May applied to the Conservatives in 2002 – was back. "Nobody is saying those words, but it's basically what everybody is thinking when they look at what we're proposing," they said.

The cabinet minister Robert Buckland hinted at his unease about the tax cuts disproportionately benefiting the wealthy, saying while simplifying tax bands was sensible, he wanted "intelligent interventionism", not "trickle-down economics".

The Welsh secretary told a fringe event: "A sensible Conservative government must be very careful to make sure that at the other end of the equation, those in greatest need are not

*'If we paint ourselves  
as the party of the  
rich, most people  
won't vote for us'*

Damian Green  
Senior Tory MP

left behind. We must remember that it is those who are in genuine need who will also need our help as a government."

The Tory MP Damian Green said the party would lose the next election if it did not change. "It's a political no-brainer that if we end up painting ourselves as the party of the rich and ... the already successful then, funnily enough, most people won't vote for us and we lose," he said.

Former transport secretary Grant Shapps also criticised the measures, saying the move to scrap the 45p tax rate was "tin-eared". In an article for the Times, he said the government should not be "making big giveaways to those that need them least".

Jake Berry, the Tory chair, angered MPs when he said they would be expected to back the tax measures or would no longer be allowed to sit as Conservatives, with at least 14 publicly warning that the comments risked forcing more out into the open.

Rebel MPs will not get an opportunity to test support for the controversial measures for many months. No 10 is now understood to be planning a vote on the tax cuts in March, likely after a spring budget. The only immediate legislation needed is on stamp duty and abolishing the national insurance rise, which Tory MPs will back.

Gove said the fact 35% of additional borrowing went on unfunded tax cuts left him "profoundly" concerned. "There are two major things that are problematic," he said. "The first is the sheer risk of using borrowed money to fund tax cuts. That is not Conservative. The second thing is the decision to cut the 45p rate, and indeed at the same time to change the law on how bankers are paid in the City of London."

"Ultimately, at a time when people are suffering ... to have a principal decision, the headline tax move, cutting tax for the wealthiest, that is a display of the wrong values." Pressed on whether he would vote against the package, he eventually admitted: "I don't believe it's right."

Additional reporting  
Aubrey Allegretti

## Arch Brexiter apologises to Ireland and EU for Tories' behaviour

Lisa O'Carroll  
Brexiter correspondent

Steve Baker – one of the Conservative party's fiercest campaigners to get the UK out of the EU – has apologised to Ireland and Brussels for the way he and some of his colleagues behaved over the past six years.

The arch Brexiter told the Tory conference that he and others in the party had not shown respect to the "legitimate interests" of Ireland or the EU during the campaign to leave.

Baker, a Northern Ireland minister, said it was time to rebuild the UK's relations with Ireland and make sure the two countries went forward as "closest partners and friends".

"I was one who perhaps acted with the most ferocious determination to get the UK out of the EU. I think we have to bring some humility to this situation," said the former chair of the European Research Group (ERG) of Brexit hardliners.

"And it's with humility that I want to accept and acknowledge that I and others did not always behave in a way which encouraged Ireland and the European Union to trust us to accept that they have legitimate interests, because they do and we are willing to respect them."

"And I am sorry about that because relations with Ireland are not where they should be and we will need to work extremely hard to improve them and I know that we are doing so," he said.

The transformation into Baker the peacemaker will astound many among the Conservatives, and others

in the UK, Ireland and the EU, who watched the ERG's attempts to finalise Brexit under Theresa May.

The ERG blocked May's effort to reach a solution to the Irish border question, called the "backstop", but backed Boris Johnson's protocol that left a border down the Irish Sea.

It would later admit it did that to get Brexit over the line, on the basis that it could renegotiate the deal at a later date.

Baker's words suggest that Liz Truss has relegated the row over the Northern Ireland protocol and perhaps was rowing back on her threat to



Steve Baker said EU members had legitimate interests in Brexit talks

bring in new laws to unilaterally tear up part of the withdrawal agreement.

Baker was speaking alongside the new Northern Ireland secretary, Christopher Heaton-Harris, who said talks between the EU and the UK had re-opened "with gusto".

Earlier yesterday, Ireland's taoiseach, Micheál Martin, said he detected a genuine wish from Truss to resolve the impasse over the Northern Ireland protocol after an intense round of diplomacy over the past few weeks.

Baker said the death of the Queen, who had played a significant role in the reconciliation between Ireland and the UK, had been a reminder of how important harmonious relations with neighbouring countries were.

"The demise of our late Majesty gave us the opportunity to meet leading Irish figures and I said to some of them, 'I am sorry we did not always respect your legitimate interests.'"

But he said the EU and Ireland should not underestimate the UK's determination to get rid of the trade barriers on goods going between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



# Moore's divisive 'freak' sculpture expected to top sale records

**Mark Brown**  
North of England correspondent

It was labelled "a monstrosity" so bad that it deserved to be interred, not displayed. But many more recognised it as a work of genius, Henry Moore considered it one of his finest, and this year it is expected to break auction records as the most expensive sculpture made by a British artist.

Moore's bronze of a reclining semi-abstract figure stopped people in their tracks when it was exhibited as a centrepiece of the Festival of Britain in 1951. It was startling and unsettling. Many adored it. Some hated it. A good number were amused by it.

When it was then offered on long-term loan to the city of Leeds it caused an almighty row and, in 1953, it was vandalised with blue paint.

Moore singled it out as one of his most important sculptures, and the first "in which I succeeded in making form and space sculpturally inseparable".

Sotheby's has announced that an edition of *Reclining Figure: Festival* will be sold at its flagship November modern art sale in New York. It has an estimate of \$30m-\$40m (£27m-£36m), the highest placed on a work by any British sculptor. The current auction record is held by another edition of *Reclining Figure*, which sold for £24.7m in 2016.

Moore, by then one of the world's most celebrated sculptors, was



▼ Moore's *Reclining Figure: Festival*, and below, the artist working on the sculpture in his studio in 1950

PHOTOGRAPHS: SOTHEBY'S/GETTY IMAGES



**'Leeds Art Gallery have accepted it. I trust they will have it decently interred'**

**Letter**  
Yorkshire Post

commissioned by the Arts Council to make a piece for the Festival of Britain in London. The work was seen by some as a thrilling representation of British defiance and resilience after the second world war. Others were shocked by it, suggesting Moore was occupied by images of the horrors at Nazi concentration camps or the aftermath of the Hiroshima nuclear bomb.

There were also less lofty reactions, perhaps summed up by a Fougasse cartoon of Moore's sculpture for *Punch* in 1951, which was captioned: "That reminds me, dear - did you remember the sandwiches?"

A storm kicked off after Leeds city council agreed to accept the work by Moore - the Castleford-born son of a miner who studied at Leeds School of Art - on long-term loan.

One Yorkshire Post letter writer asked: "Must Leeds always be the

dumping ground for every freak that can be performed by painters and sculptors?"

Another, writing from the Old Vicarage in Wetherby, said the sculpture appeared to represent "a human form in an advanced stage of decomposition which has been disembowelled, partially decapitated and had both feet severed". "I read that the Leeds Art Gallery subcommittee have accepted it. I trust they will have it decently interred."

Those views were echoed by the modernism-hating painter Sir Alfred Munnings, a former president of the Royal Academy, who called it a "monstrosity".

Moore declined to get involved in the row. "For the artist himself to enter into these controversies is, I think, wrong," he said. "These things sort themselves out in the long run. If I entered into the controversies I should never get any work done."

*Reclining Figure* was removed from display in 1956 and lent to the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh in 1961, entering its collection in 1969. It remains there today.

The original plaster sculpture of *Reclining Figure* is in the Tate collection and other casts are in museums including the Musée National d'Art Moderne in Paris.

Sotheby's is auctioning the only one of an edition of seven that was kept by the Moore family. It was sold privately in the 1970s and its sale on 14 November will be the first time this cast has appeared at auction.

Moore recognised that the work would be a milestone in his career and worked with the BBC film-maker John Read to document the process.

Oliver Barker, the chair of Sotheby's Europe, said the work was in the top rank of 20th-century sculptures. "It is a very innovative work, which was completely in tune with the mood of postwar London," he said.

He accepted the work was not liked by everyone but said: "All great art often divides crowds. If you think about [Pablo Picasso's] *Guernica*, it was very contentious when it first came out. All great art provokes. Since then it has just become more and more celebrated."

"There is something very radical about this sculpture. Often with a sculpture there is a weak moment, you look at it from a particular angle and it doesn't quite work. But with this there is no weak moment, it is universally fantastic."

## Theatre review Modern classic still distils state of the nation

**Iphigenia in Splott**  
Lyric Hammersmith, London  
★★★★★

Arifa Akbar

This monologue was first performed in 2015, when its tragedies spoke of the effects of austerity-era Britain on the lives of the "little people". It felt very much

of the moment. Now, Gary Owen's magnificent, eviscerating play still speaks about the sorry state of our nation but feels as if it were written for this year, month, and moment.

That is partly down to timing but also to its artistry. Sophie Melville returns to play Effie, a loud and lairy young woman from Cardiff whose life is threaded through with Greek tragedy.

She is a natural storyteller, swaggering as she takes us through the one-night stands and three-day

hangovers that comprise her life. Melville manages to encapsulate both the kinetic verbal highs of one of Irvine Welsh's trainspotters and the stillness of Alan Bennett's lonely women, observing the world with gimlet-eyed glances through the net curtain, gestured at in the luminous slats of a window blind on Hayley Grindle's set.

Melville performs with such expressive athleticism that it looks like the theatrical equivalent of triple somersaults; we wonder where this curious story is going, and how she is going to keep the energy up. It goes in the direction of the *Iphigenia* myth, and female sacrifice, but distils our contemporary troubles within it: the library closures, hospital

overcrowding and bed-blocking all contain immense human tragedies. Every line brings big, freighted drama and we feel floored.

All its components combine to become bigger than the sum of its parts, from Rachel O'Riordan's supremely controlled directorial



▲ Sophie Melville performs the role of Effie with expressive athleticism

timing (switching from sprint to stillness with the pace of a perfectly choreographed dance) to Owen's script - a growling poetic meditation and call to arms in one.

It is full of paradoxes: a monologue constrained by singularity through its form feels peopled by an entire town. And an epic tragedy captured by a white working-class woman with no hint of Vicky Pollard-style satirising despite her scraped-back hair, snarls and street brawls. She is eminently ordinary but exceptional in her heroism.

Everyone should see this shattering modern classic. No one will remain unmoved.

Until 22 October



# 'So proud': marathon runners' personal triumphs

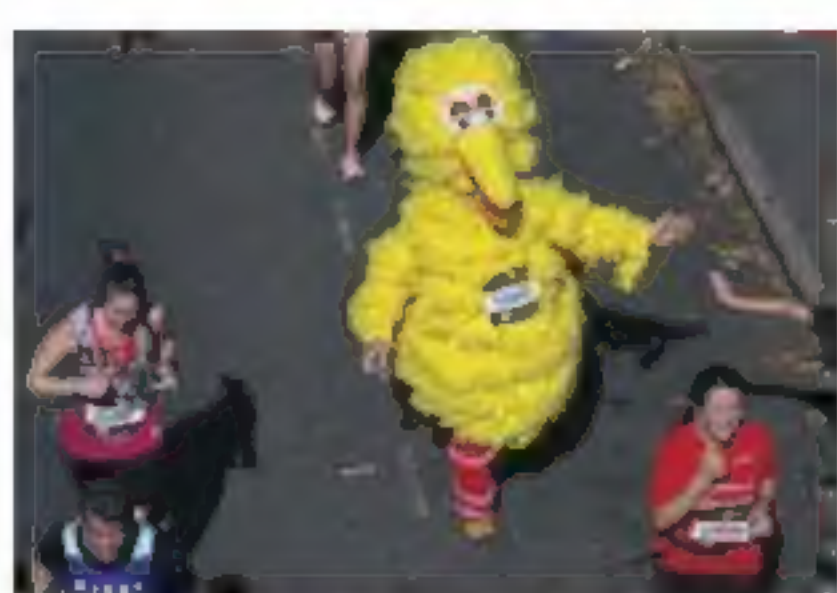
**Sean Ingle**  
Chief sports reporter

On a day when the capital's streets basked in unexpected sunshine, more than 40,000 runners, from 18 to 89, created their own special London marathon memories. Some stories, though, were even more extraordinary than others.

At the front of the field, the 23-year-old Ethiopian Yalemzerf Yehualaw, became the youngest ever women's winner of the race despite injuring her hip and knee when tripping over a speed bump six miles from the finish.

In the men's race, Weynay Ghebresilasie – who was born in Eritrea but qualified to represent Great Britain after claiming asylum at the London 2012 Olympics – was the first UK athlete home in a new personal best time of 2:11:57.

Among the thousands of runners there were two Ukrainians, Kostiantyn Bidnenko and Viktoriya



▲ Ethiopia's Yalemzerf Yehualaw was the youngest women's winner, despite a fall during the race

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID CLIFF/AP

Kiose, who originally had no plans to run the race when their country was invaded in February.

However, when Bidnenko, 35, reported for military duty in Kyiv he was told he couldn't serve on the frontline due to alkaptonuria – a rare, progressive genetic disease that causes pain in the joints.

So after he and his fiancé ended up in London – via Lviv, Warsaw and Naples – they decided to give something back by running to raise

money for United 24, the foundation supporting Ukraine, and finished together in a very respectable 3hrs 49mins.

As Kiose explained: "I am so proud to support my country, and the British people are very warm. I am all the time crying as Russia is bombing our cities and civilians. I want to ask for help."

There was another remarkable story as Anoosheh Ashoori, the British-Iranian civil engineer who

◀ A runner dressed as Sesame Street's Big Bird, and, above right, as a rhino, were among 40,000 people taking part in the race



began running while imprisoned by the Iranian regime on trumped-up spying charges, ran the race with his son Aryan.

Ashoori, who was finally released and returned to Britain in March with Nazanin Zaghari Radcliffe, admitted he was no runner, had a beer belly, and couldn't even run for 10 minutes when he started. But he was delighted to come home in 5hrs 28 mins.

[The event director, Hugh Brasher, hailed the day as showing London and Britain in its best light.

"Once again, London has proved we have that heart and soul, the colour, the vibrancy, and the inclusiveness. It is part of the journey that the London Marathon has been on since 1981," he said.

Race report [Sport Page 34](#) →

## Third of young people say life is spiralling out of control

Continued from page 1

which threaten the futures and aspirations of an entire generation if we don't act," said Jonathan Townsend, the charity's UK chief executive.

"Their education, employment and key formative years have already suffered, leaving many feeling uncertain and scared about a future which appears to be spiralling out of their control," he said. "Despite high vacancies, young people remain worried about future career prospects."

The research, which surveyed more than 2,000 young people across the UK, is part of a campaign the charity is launching this week to raise awareness of the longer-term impact of the pandemic.

Almost half of those surveyed said the pandemic had made them more resilient, and slightly over half said it had made them more determined to achieve their goals. "Young people have shown a unique resilience to overcome the challenges they have faced and are more determined than ever to achieve their goals," said Townsend. "But they need our support to ensure their talents and aspirations do not go to waste."

There is also evidence of young people missing developmental milestones during the pandemic, according to the Savanta State of the Youth Nation report.

The report found that almost a quarter of 16- to 19-year-olds may have missed out on having their first kiss because of Covid. For those aged 20 to 25, the figure was 17%. Many also missed out on starting their first romantic relationship, with one in five of those aged 16 to 19 and 15% of those aged 20 to 25 not having a relationship when compared with the experiences of people of the same age before the pandemic.

Savanta, which runs the country's largest youth research panel, has asked more than 1,000 young people the same set of questions for seven years. "The impact of those two years of lost independence could have far-reaching consequences," said Josephine Hansom, the organisation's vice-president. "There are all sorts of key developmental milestones missed that could well hold young people back now the world has opened up again."

The report also found that young people who experienced disruptions in starting work or who had to work online were confused about what to expect. Before the pandemic, 68% of young people felt work was what they expected. Post-pandemic, the figure fell to 49%.

The research also shows they are less confident about performing tasks at work. The proportion of those who feel able to focus on one task for a sustained period fell from 55% pre-pandemic to 39% post-pandemic.

How lockdowns changed a generation [Page 16](#) →

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**Food banks**  
Plea for help as  
donations decline

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**Balenciaga goes West**  
Kanye makes surprise  
catwalk appearance

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# National



◀ The Old War Office has been transformed into 85 flats and a 120-room hotel  
PHOTOGRAPHS: GRAIN LONDON LTD

▶ The new development's lavish interior. One flat has already sold for more than £40m

## No affordable homes in £1.2bn luxury development by UK's richest people

**Rupert Neate**

Wealth correspondent

The UK's two richest people were allowed to avoid planning rules that should have required them to build 98 affordable flats for key workers and people on lower incomes at their new £1.2bn luxury development in London.

The Hinduja brothers, named by the Sunday Times as the wealthiest people in Britain with a £28.5bn fortune, won approval in 2017 from the then Conservative Westminster city council to develop the historic Old War Office near Downing Street into 85 luxury flats and a 120-room five-star Raffles hotel.

The Guardian can reveal that the OWO development – in which one flat has sold for more than £40m – should, under planning rules, contain 8,000 sq metres of affordable housing – enough for 98 flats. However, the council agreed to allow the Hinduja brothers to develop the building with no affordable housing after their agents claimed it would “not be economically feasible” to do so.

They were given the go-ahead despite more than 4,000 families waiting on the borough's affordable housing list, with many waiting more than 10 years for a home. There were until recently thousands more in the queue, but councils across the country drastically cut their waiting lists by making it harder to remain eligible.

Under planning policies designed to help tackle the housing crisis, all new residential developments should be made up of at least 30% affordable housing. “The applicant is providing no on-site affordable housing in this instance stating that such provision would not be practical or viable,” planning documents showed.

The council's planning policy states that if it is not possible to have affordable housing on site, developers must provide affordable housing elsewhere in the borough or make a payment to the council's affordable housing fund.

The documents show the OWO development on Whitehall has a “7,870.75sqm shortfall in affordable housing” and “the policy-compliant payment generated by the scheme is £39.6m”.



However, the Hinduja's agent offered only a “£10m contribution” to the affordable housing fund. At the time of the application in 2017, the then Conservative-run council's “viability consultant” said the suggested donation was “generous”.

Labour took control of Westminster council for the first time at the 2022 local elections in May. The council said it could not retrospectively change the planning ruling.

Labour's Geoff Barraclough, the council's cabinet member for planning, told the Guardian: “According to Westminster council's own policies, the Old War Office should have provided almost 8,000 sq metres of

affordable housing, enough for 98 flats. The planning committee at that time accepted the developer's viability assessment and its conclusion that the requirement for on-site affordable housing could not be delivered and therefore received a £10m cash in lieu payment.

“Looking forward, we believe it's vital to provide affordable homes in central London for the key workers that do the vital jobs that make our city a success. We have a strong commitment to ensuring new developments comply with the council's established planning policies.”

The council is now trying to buy back former council flats in order to increase its housing stock. The average cost of an ex-council two-bedroom flat in the borough is about £500,000. That suggests the £10m could buy up to 20 flats. If the developer had paid the expected £39.6m it could have bought about 80 flats.

Freddie Poser, the director of PricedOut, a campaign group calling on the government to increase the supply of affordable homes, said it was outrageous that the council had allowed the development to go

ahead with no affordable housing. “Decisions like this are making the housing crisis worse,” he said. “It's disappointing that developments of such a clear commercial gain are only providing such a small amount to regular Londoners. Such developments should come with significant support to Londoners struggling to pay rent in our city.”

Srichand and Gopichand Hinduja, who own a vast collection of assets across the world, did not respond to requests for comment. Westminster Development Services, their company developing the site, also declined to comment.

The brothers bought the OWO building from the Ministry of Defence for £350m in 2014. In promotional material, Gopichand Hinduja is quoted as saying: “The OWO is my greatest legacy to London for future generations to enjoy.”

Residents of the serviced apartments at the development, which is due to open early next year, will be able to use an underground pool, cinema, gym, three workout studios, spa and treatment room and underground parking.



▲ Srichand, left, and Gopichand Hinduja are worth about £28bn

## Biggest rise in waits to see skin and breast cancer specialists

**Carmen Aguilar García**

Patients with suspected skin or breast cancer have had the largest increase in waiting times of people urgently referred to a specialist, analysis of NHS England data shows.

Almost 10,000 patients who had been referred by a GP to a cancer specialist had to wait for more than 28 days – double the maximum 14-day

target – in July. Seventy-five per cent were suspected of having skin, breast or lower gastrointestinal cancer, a Guardian analysis has revealed.

In total, 53,000 people in England waited more than two weeks to see a cancer specialist – 22% of all the patients urgently referred for a cancer appointment by their GPs.

Minesh Patel, the head of policy at Macmillan Cancer Support, said people were waiting “far too long for diagnosis or vital treatment”, adding

that patients “are worried about the impact of these delays on their prognosis and quality of care.”

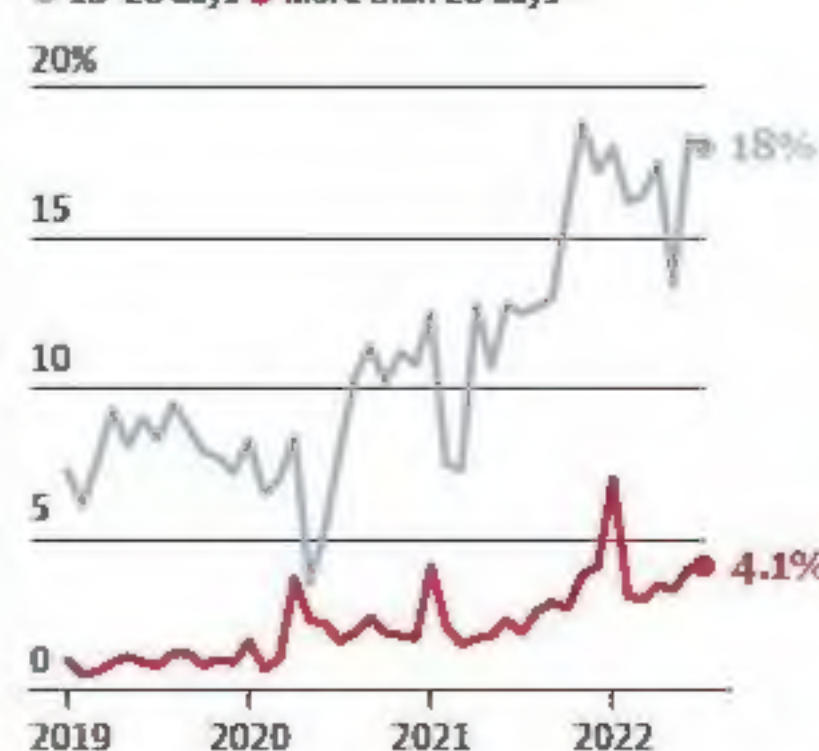
“The NHS has never worked harder,” said Matt Sample, the health policy manager at Cancer Research UK, but, he added, the fact that patients were dealing with long waits “reflects a broader picture of some of the worst waits for tests and treatments on record”.

He added: “When just a matter of weeks can be enough for some cancers to progress, this is unacceptable.”

The proportion of patients facing the longest waits for an urgent investigation for cancer is seven times the rate recorded six years ago. Between May and July 2016 there was

**More than a fifth of cancer patients in England waited more than two weeks to see a specialist in July**

● 15-28 days ● More than 28 days\*



Source: NHS England. \*after urgent referral from GP

a monthly average of 0.5% of people waiting more than four weeks, compared with 3.8% during the same period in 2022.

But the situation has deteriorated the most for patients with breast or skin cancer. In 2016 0.3% of the patients with suspected breast cancer and 0.6% of those with skin tumours faced the longest waits. That figure is now more than 16 and eight times higher respectively, soaring to a monthly average of 5% of the patients between May and July 2022.

In contrast, just 1.3% of those with suspected testicular, brain or haematological tumours waited more than 28 days to see a specialist, a rise of one percentage point since 2016.



## National Conservative conference

# Cop27 King to miss summit after Truss intervention

Helena Horton

King Charles should not go to Cop27 but send Prince William in his place, an environment minister has said, after reports that Liz Truss intervened to stop the monarch attending.

Buckingham Palace confirmed that the King will not be attending the international gathering in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, despite his longstanding and passionate commitment to environmental issues.

The Sunday Times reported that the decision not to go was taken after the prime minister raised objections during an audience with the monarch last month.

Mark Spencer, the new minister for fisheries and farming, said Prince William should go instead as the King now has “other priorities”.

Spencer, speaking at a Conservative Environment Network event at the Tory conference yesterday, said: “I’m not in charge of the King’s diary, luckily. He’s expressed a great deal of interest in the environment in the past, but I think in his new role, as the monarch, is going to have a lot of other priorities, and I think as he said himself he’s up for others to take up that challenge.”

He said he thought Prince William should take up the mantle: “I’m sure the Prince of Wales will be a huge ambassador for the environment, moving forward.”

Prince William has already taken on some of the King’s work on the environment in areas such as rainforests and species conservation.

Spencer’s ministerial colleague, the levelling-up secretary, Simon Clarke, denied claims that Truss ordered the King to stay away from the event in Egypt next month.

He said the decision had been mutually agreed by the government and the palace, telling Times Radio: “It’s been clear this is a decision that has been made consensually between the King and the government.”

“That is a decision that has been made amicably, as far as I am aware, between the palace and the government.”

“The suggestions this morning that he was ordered to stay away are simply not true.”

Despite not attending the event in person, it is understood that the King still hopes to be able to contribute to the conference in some way.



▲ King Charles and Queen consort go to church at Balmoral yesterday



## PM's tax cuts for wealthy a betrayal of manifesto pledge to level up – Gove

Peter Walker  
Jessica Elgot  
Aubrey Allegretti

Michael Gove has launched a sustained broadside at Liz Truss’s economic plans, saying it was “not Conservative” to fund tax cuts from borrowing and marked a betrayal of the party’s one nation 2019 election manifesto.

In a frantic day of interventions, the former levelling up secretary first told BBC One – while Truss watched from the same studio – that it was probable he could not back the tax cuts in parliament before embarking on a string of similarly damning fringe appearances at the Conservative party conference.

While Gove insisted he was not in contact with other Conservative

MPs, his status in the party is likely to make him a focus for a growing backbench rebellion over Truss’s decision to scrap the top rate of tax and the cap on bankers’ bonuses.

Despite warnings from the party chair, Jake Berry, that MPs who voted against the fiscal measures would lose the Tory whip, so far 12 backbenchers have said they plan to do so.

The mooted idea that the government would trim the welfare budget to pay for such changes was inconceivable, Gove said, telling Truss in effect she had to change course or risk her mini-budget being voted down.

“It’s going to be very, very, very difficult to argue that it is right to reduce welfare when we’re also reducing taxes for the wealthiest,” Gove told one fringe event in Birmingham organised by the Daily Telegraph.

The 2019 manifesto was “a one

nation majority” that must be respected, Gove said: “People wanted Brexit done, but they also wanted levelling up. They wanted a Conservative government that was dedicated to improving the lives of those who hadn’t necessarily been traditional Conservative voters, and certainly

*‘It will be difficult to argue it’s right to reduce welfare when we’re reducing taxes for the wealthiest’*

Michael Gove  
Former cabinet minister

were not among the wealthiest in society. And we’ve got to stay true to that tradition.”

On BBC One’s Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg show, directly after Truss had been interviewed, Gove said he backed moves to limit energy bills, but the fact that 35% of additional borrowing in the fiscal statement went on unfunded tax cuts left him “profoundly” concerned.

“There are two major things that are problematic with the fiscal event,” he said. “The first is the sheer risk of using borrowed money to fund tax cuts. That is not Conservative. The second thing is the decision to cut the 45p rate, and indeed at the same time to change the law on how bankers are paid in the City of London.”

“Ultimately, at a time when people are suffering ... when you have additional billions of pounds in play, to have a principal decision, the headline tax move, cutting tax for the wealthiest, that is a display of the wrong values.”

Pressed earlier on whether he would vote against the package in the Commons, Gove eventually told Kuenssberg: “I don’t believe it’s right.”

Gove’s intervention appears to have set him on a collision course with Berry, who appeared to suggest rebels would face a backlash if they defied the government by voting against the chancellor’s plan.

Asked on Sky’s Sophie Ridge on



## Kuenssberg interview PM at ease despite growing rebellion

Liz Truss had her first lengthy grilling since the mini-budget from Laura Kuenssberg yesterday, after critics called her mini-interviews with BBC local radio earlier in the week a “car crash”. In the interview, the prime minister appeared at ease despite the mounting Tory rebellion. These are the key points:

**1 A defence of tax cuts, but a sliver of remorse about the handling of the announcement** Truss said she would “stand by” the mini-budget, which handed bigger tax cuts to the wealthy. Her only regret was how the announcement was handled. She seemed to suggest more should have been done to reassure the markets in advance of Kwasi Kwarteng’s statement, saying: “I will make sure in future we do a better job of laying the ground.”

**2 A refusal to rule out public service spending cuts** During the leadership contest, Truss said she was “not planning public spending reductions”. But she failed to be so definitive in the Kuenssberg interview. She twice refused to rule out cuts, but when it was put to her that they were likely to happen, she snapped back “no it doesn’t” and told people to wait for the medium-term growth announcement by Kwarteng at the end of November.

**3 Kwarteng blamed for axing of 45p tax rate** Tory MPs’ main criticism has been the abolition of the 45p rate of tax on earnings above £150,000 – proof, they say, that the mini-budget was about helping the better off. Truss said the measure was not discussed with the cabinet in advance but was a decision made by the chancellor.

**4 Door left open to real-terms benefits cuts** Another move Truss declined to rule out was raising benefits by less than inflation, saying it was “something the Department for Work and Pensions secretary is looking at ... She will make a determination on that and we will announce that this autumn.”

**5 Refusal to publish OBR’s forecasts before 23 November** The government has been forced into accepting forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility. Mel Stride, a Tory MP and chair of the Treasury select committee, has demanded them this month. But Truss said they would be held back until Kwarteng made his growth announcement.

**6 Easy about chancellor’s drinks with hedge fund managers after mini-budget** After the Sunday Times reported that Kwarteng attended a champagne reception at the home of a Conservative donor hours after delivering his mini-budget, Truss seemed relaxed. “He meets business people all the time,” she said. “I don’t manage his diary.” **Aubrey Allegretti**

## ‘Supreme self-confidence’ Truss likely to disappoint Tories hoping for a U-turn

Pippa Crerar  
Political editor

Liz Truss has long channelled Margaret Thatcher – echoing her rhetoric, her free market instincts and even her clothes – but as the Tory conference kicked off in Birmingham yesterday many in her party were hoping she would relinquish ambitions to be the next Iron Lady and drop her mini-budget plans.

There were early glimmers of hope. In an article for the Sun, she admitted her proposals would cause “short term disruption” but that she had an “iron grip” on the country’s finances. Then she told the BBC she understood public concerns: “I do accept we should have laid the ground better.”

She even said she wanted to try to win over the “hearts and minds” of jittery Tory MPs, with she and Kwasi Kwarteng hitting the phones and holding meetings with colleagues, and her chief of staff, Mark Fullbrook, trying to get backbenchers on board.

But any hopes MPs may have had that an imminent U-turn was on the cards were soon dashed when she reiterated her plans to cut the 45p top rate of tax and remove the cap on bankers’ bonuses, and refused



▲ Having a laugh: Liz Truss appears on Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg

to rule out welfare cuts and another round of austerity.

These proposals, in particular, are regarded as electorally toxic – a gift to Labour, which has consistently asked of the government: “Whose side are they on?” Despite this, Truss lacks even the slightest hint of self-doubt that she may be on the wrong track. “She has supreme self-confidence – she’s brave, determined, doesn’t flinch,” one former cabinet minister says. “But that’s the generous interpretation.”

Others find her rigidity unfathomable and fear her hubris will be the party’s downfall. “She loves the Thatcher comparison, but Thatcher was ultimately a pragmatist,” says one MP.

She shrugs off suggestions that she doesn’t have the electoral mandate for a radically different economic approach. “How many people voted for your plan?” she

was asked by Laura Kuenssberg. There was an awkward pause as Truss, looking baffled by the question, formulated her response. “What do you mean by that?”

Against this backdrop, a gloomy pall hung over the fringe events on the first day of conference. At one, Rachel Wolf, the co-author of the 2019 Tory election manifesto, predicted that Truss would lose the next election because despite presenting herself as the “continuity Boris” candidate she had junked everything he stood for.

The pollster James Johnson, a former aide to Theresa May, says the mini-budget has irretrievably broken the Tories’ reputation for sound management of the economy. “When economic competence goes, the Conservatives lose their advantage,” he says.

No 10 aides look downbeat, but dutifully defend the strategy. “Wait and see,” one says. “The tax cuts were just part one. She’s only announced about 20% of what she wants to do. The supply-side reforms come next and when they see her comprehensive plan and have the OBR [Office for Budget Responsibility] forecasts they’ll view it differently.”

Truss already looks increasingly isolated. Her relationship with Kwarteng, her ideological soulmate, is strained and yesterday she appeared to throw the chancellor under the bus over the 45p tax rate cut saying: “It was a decision that the chancellor made.”

Truss has served in Tory cabinets from David Cameron’s onwards. “She’s always done what was asked of her in those roles,” one ally says. “It’s her turn now.” Tory MPs hoping that the lady is, after all, for turning are set to be disappointed.

## Mel B Singer tells meeting that domestic abuse must stay on agenda

Ben Quinn

The former Spice Girl Melanie Brown has told an event at the Tory conference of her fears that the “massive issue of domestic abuse” will slip down the agenda during “these times of absolute economic chaos”.

The singer, known to millions as Mel B or “Scary Spice”, was speaking at a meeting organised by the Sun and Women’s Aid, which she became a patron of in 2018 after leaving what she described as an abusive relationship.

“We need to reform everything, the courts, the police, even GPs, even people in your work environment, HR. You need to have a safe place where you can go without any shame and know the warning signs,” said Brown, who was made an MBE

for services to charitable causes and vulnerable women.

Women’s Aid is publishing research that found 40% of adults believe people who carry out domestic violence against women were enabled by sexism, compared with some 60% who felt the opposite and regarded it – in the words of the charity’s chief – as “bad people doing bad things”.

“What we have is a real gap in people’s understanding of how prevalent this crime is,” said Farah Nazeer, the chief executive of Women’s Aid.

“We are not ready yet as a society to support women and that is the fundamental question. This is due to sexism and misogyny that underpins all those systems,” she said, echoing Brown’s criticism of a range of institutions.

Thanking Brown for her support, Nazeer went on to say that the problem was so widespread that there would be perpetrators in the room they were speaking in, as well as women who are experiencing abuse.

The new Women’s Aid research also found there was a 15% drop in how seriously people regarded an instance of domestic abuse, such as if a man slaps his wife, if the perpetrator apologised afterwards.

Brown told the fringe event at the Tory party conference in Birmingham: “As a Spice Girl I am the embodiment of girl power, and for 10 years I was completely powerless.”

She added: “I’m probably the last person you would expect at a Tory conference. I can’t quite believe I’m here myself.”



◀ The former Spice Girl Melanie Brown (centre) arrives at the conference yesterday to speak about domestic abuse

PHOTOGRAPH: STEFAN KOUSSEAU/PA

▲ Michael Gove is pursued by the media in Birmingham yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER THOMOND/ THE GUARDIAN

Sunday show if MPs would lose the whip for opposing the budget, Berry said: “Yes, correct. That is a decision for the chief whip, but as far as I’m concerned, yes.”

One Tory MP said Berry’s comments risked “breaking the dam” and forcing more MPs out into the open against the abolition of the 45p top rate of tax or against the wider idea of unfunded borrowing to pay for tax cuts.

Another called it “very provocative”, saying it “gives colleagues an excuse to move in numbers, especially those in marginal seats”.

At least 14 MPs have broken cover to criticise the plans, though many more are expressing private scepticism. MPs may not get an opportunity to test support for the controversial measures for many months with No 10 understood to be planning a vote on the tax cuts in March, likely after a spring budget. The only immediate legislation needed is on stamp duty and abolishing the national insurance rise, which Tory MPs will back.

One former cabinet minister said there was enough support in the party to vote to defeat the measures, but said they predicted the government would change course.



## National Conservative conference

# Tories pressed to release names of financiers at Kwarteng drinks party

Jessica Elgot  
Nadeem Badshah

Pressure is growing on the Tory party to provide a full list of attendees at a private champagne reception attended by the chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, hours after he delivered his mini-budget.

Anneliese Dodds, the Labour chair, has written to her Conservative counterpart, Jake Berry, calling on him to release a list of those in attendance and if they pledged donations or paid a fee to be there.

The chancellor is said to have given guests information about forthcoming government spending cuts during the event at the west London home of Andrew Law, a financier, on the evening of Friday 23 September.

Berry said yesterday that the drinks reception was not unusual and those who were there should be “lauded” as Britain’s leading entrepreneurs. Along with hedge fund managers, property developers had also been present, he said.

In her letter calling for the names, Dodds wrote: “Many people are sickened by the image of champagne-quaffing Conservative donors encouraging the chancellor to press ahead with further tax cuts for billionaires, at the same time as many members of the British public are unable to access a mortgage.”

She also asked if civil servants were present and if minutes were taken, “and if not, then why not” given



◀ Kwasi Kwarteng attended a drinks reception at the home of the financier Andrew Law, attended by hedge fund managers, hours after he had presented his mini-budget in the Commons

## ‘Crony’ business partner made minister

The City business partner of Jacob Rees-Mogg has been handed a peerage and job as a senior minister by Liz Truss, triggering an accusation of cronyism. Dominic Johnson, who co-founded Somerset Capital Management (SCM) with Rees-Mogg, was made a minister in the Cabinet Office and the Department for International Trade.

The announcement was slipped out on the government’s website: “Dominic Johnson CBE was appointed a minister of state jointly in the Department for International Trade and the Cabinet Office on 2 October 2022.”

The appointment is likely to be controversial at a time when Truss, her chancellor, Kwasi

Kwarteng, and Rees-Mogg face questions about being too close to the City, after the mini-budget handed significant tax cuts to financiers and the wealthy.

Johnson was vice-chairman of the Conservative party between 2016 and 2019 and has donated more than £250,000 to the party.

The shadow trade secretary, Nick Thomas-Symonds, said it “beggars belief” the Tories appointed an unelected asset-fund manager to the government, “who just happens to be a crony party donor”.

Johnson recently said he was stepping down as chief executive, while Rees-Mogg still holds a stake in the firm, despite the potential conflict of interest with his role as business secretary. **Rowena Mason**

sensitive information may have been disclosed.

Kwarteng’s mini-budget, which introduced a £45bn package of tax cuts that will mostly benefit the richest fifth of households, triggered turmoil. Sterling collapsed to its lowest level against the dollar since 1985 and the Bank of England was forced to act to save pension funds.

Berry said it was right that people who donated to political parties were thanked. “These people should be lauded because we don’t have public funding of political parties and these are people who go out and make money and donate to political parties,” he told Sky News’ Sophy Ridge on Sunday.

Asked if hedge fund managers had been there, Berry said he was “sure there were” but that he had had conversations with people who worked in the property industry. “They were all saying they back this government’s drive to create growth in the economy because they understand you cannot have a rising tide of prosperity that flows under every door in this country without having growth in the economy.”

Kwarteng told those at the reception about austerity-style budget cuts to come while guests drank champagne and congratulated him on the measures, according to the Sunday Times.

Two sources told the Sunday Times that Kwarteng described the day as a “great day for freedom”. Another said guests told Kwarteng to “double down” – an approach from which some stood to make profits.

Tory officials said the gathering at Law’s home had been arranged by the party’s campaign headquarters.

The Liberal Democrats’ Treasury spokesperson, Sarah Olney, said there should be an inquiry into what Kwarteng told donors.

She said: “While struggling homeowners saw their mortgage bills spiral, it seems the chancellor was sipping champagne with hedge fund managers profiting from the falling pound.”



## ‘Not welcome’ Rees-Mogg heckled as protesters vent anger

Jessica Murray  
Midlands correspondent

Jacob Rees-Mogg was heckled and chased by protesters as he made his way to the Conservative party conference, as hundreds gathered near

## Yesterday in Birmingham

**Quote of the day**  
Michael Gove gave his frank assessment of the mini-budget, telling a fringe event hosted by the Onward thinktank:

“Millionaires will gain by tens of thousands of pounds as a result of these tax cuts – and people on average and below average incomes will not, and that I think is the wrong priority.”

**Debate of the day**  
Perhaps the most energetic discussion was a fringe event co-

## Ideological bedfellows Bond between PM and her chancellor under pressure

Rowena Mason  
Whitehall editor

**T**hey are neighbours in the same small corner of Greenwich, and now live next door in Downing Street – but the alliance between Liz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng actually goes back more than a decade to their entry into parliament as new MPs in 2010.

Back then, as part of a new Free Enterprise Group of Tory MPs, the pair were trying to push the coalition government towards a more free market approach to Conservative politics.

“If you look at opinion polls,

the concept of the free market is more popular in China, Germany and America than it is in Britain. We want to have a more positive attitude towards making profit, wealth creation,” Truss said in 2011.

Kwarteng was making the same argument, but with an added message about the need to “engage in a public debate, with journalists, with the fourth estate, and put the case across”.

A decade later, they are at the very top of government and banging the same tax-cutting drum, but have failed to follow the now chancellor’s own advice about bringing the public along with them. The pair were so ideologically aligned that they co-authored two books together,

with others: *Britannia Unchained*, which famously referred to British workers as some of the “worst idlers in the world”, and *After the Coalition*.

But while Truss’s career progressed as a junior minister under David Cameron, and cabinet minister before long, Kwarteng was left in the cold. He did not start on the ministerial ladder until 2018, before rising to business secretary under Boris Johnson.

Truss and Kwarteng are believed to have teamed up as partner candidates to be prime minister and chancellor early in the campaign. They planned their programme for the first 100 days of government together with meetings in Greenwich. And as Kwarteng delivered his controversial mini-budget, Truss was alongside him smiling and nodding along.

However, the fallout has tested even such a long political friendship. The first signs of tension between Truss and Kwarteng emerged last week with reports that she was resisting a statement to calm the markets,

which the Treasury believed was necessary. Downing Street sources insisted there was no row and that Truss and Kwarteng were so close that they met every day.

But a further hint of a fracture appeared yesterday, as Kwarteng told the Mail on Sunday that they had both signed off the policy to abolish the 45p top rate of tax. “I think we were agreed on that. We worked closely together to come up with the policy. I speak to the prime minister every day, we get on very well and we share ideas all the time. We are absolutely as one and we have come through a challenging period,” he said.

But Truss went on to suggest to the BBC’s Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg that it was ultimately Kwarteng’s call, saying: “It was a decision that the chancellor made.”

A spokesperson for the chancellor was quick to dismiss any talk of friction, saying the pair were in “lockstep”. But the history of No 10 and No 11 relations shows even the most seasoned political allies can have trouble keeping to the same script, let alone at a time of intense economic pressure.



▼ Protesters, dressed as Liz Truss and other cabinet members, in Victoria Square, Birmingham

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER THOMOND



the venue in Birmingham to express their anger at the government.

The business secretary was escorted by police as he made his way through booing crowds in Victoria Square yesterday, as protests swept the country amid rising energy costs and falling living standards.

Rees-Mogg told Sky News: "There have been protests at Tory conferences since time immemorial, it's nothing new. It's a fact of democracy. They're shouting but it's perfectly peaceful. And the right to peaceful expression of your view is fundamental to our constitution."

The protest, organised by the People's Assembly Against Austerity, attracted hundreds angry about the cost of living crisis and the government's economic policy.

Addressing the crowds, the rail

union head Mick Lynch described Kwasi Kwarteng's mini budget as "the most profound statement a politician has made for the last 50 years".

"Over the last six months, we've seen the decadence and corruption of the ruling class in this country," he said. "They are acting in the interests of their people, you don't have to be a Marxist or a radical or a socialist to understand that."

He told the rally that "we are in the middle of a class struggle" and said "we pay tax to support our people, not to subsidise the rich".

The protesters marched through Birmingham to the International Convention Centre, where the Conservative conference is under way, chanting "Tories are not welcome here" and "Tory scum out of Brum".

Many people travelled to the city

to take part in the protest, including Christine Collins, a social care worker from Bolton. "We've come down because we're so angry, it's so unfair, the scales are really not balanced any more," she said.

"It's made me even angrier seeing the Conservative delegates laughing and looking at us with total disregard. It seems like they do not care."

Suzi Boardman, who works in education in Bolton, said people were angry after a decade of cuts and austerity. "In local government, we've gone through 10 years of not having cost of living rises, our wages have gone down in real terms," she said.

"The rich people who are getting their taxes cut are just going to invest that, it doesn't circulate, it doesn't come down to the poor. Trickle-down doesn't work."

Winston Marshall, once a Mumford



run by the Institute for Economic Affairs and the Taxpayers' Alliance with the ominous title: Is the UK a safe space for free speech?

The conclusion from the panel, which included Winston Marshall, who quit the chart-topping band Mumford & Sons over his political views, was very much not, with much talk about how a liberal establishment was seeking to quash dissenting views.

Most apocalyptic was Eric Kaufmann, a UK-based Canadian academic, who described what he called "the useful idiots of the woke takeover" as the biggest threat to western democracy since the cold war.

### Row of the day

Threats by several Tory MPs to vote against some of the measures unveiled in the mini-budget, such as abolishing the cap on bankers' bonuses and top rate of income tax, have set up a major battle in parliament. Truss will have to pass a finance bill before April to bring the changes into law; however, the swell of backbenchers already rallying against them grew significantly yesterday.

They argued it would be wrong to relieve the tax burden faced by the mega-wealthy while Truss kept the door open to slashing public spending or a real-terms cut for benefits claimants - declining to

rule either out. Jake Berry, the Conservative party chair, upped the stakes by warning that the whip could be withdrawn from those who vote against the budget.

### Today's highlights

After keeping a relatively low profile over the past week amid the fallout from his mini-budget, the chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, will take to the main stage at around 4pm. The markets, spooked by his comments before, will be hang on his every word. Cabinet ministers accused of stoking "culture wars" will also have a speaking slot - Kemi Badenoch, Michelle Donelan and Jacob Rees-Mogg.

### Sketch John Crace



*Truss manages to be upbeat and catatonic at the same time - it's quite the achievement*

**A**ll dressed up and no place to go. By lunchtime there were a few hundred people at a loose end inside the Birmingham conference centre. Workers were putting the finishing touches to the exhibit stands. There was no rush.

Most Tories have wisely decided to give this year's conference a swerve. No point in depressing yourself unduly. Better to put your feet up at home.

Then, for those who had made the effort, there was precious little to do. Whether it was just to contain the damage or a realisation there was little demand, the schedule for the main hall has been limited to just two hours a day. In the graveyard slot of 4-6pm. And even that feels way too long.

But you can trust Michael Gove to fill a vacuum. The disruptor-in-chief never knowingly misses an opportunity to make mischief and this year he is appearing at 12 different fringe events. His goal is simple: to say over and over again that Liz Truss is bonkers. That she has no mandate for the 45p tax rate. That unfunded tax cuts for the rich are immoral. That he would happily vote down any parts of the budget he didn't like. And the implication was there were plenty more like him.

*After Penny Mordaunt had made herself cry with a clichéd tribute to the Queen, it was left to others to not mention the economy*

There were plenty of spare seats as events finally started in the main hall. After Penny Mordaunt had made herself cry with a rather clichéd and prosaic tribute to the Queen, it was left to Jake Berry and regional mayors Andy Street and Ben Houchen to not mention the economy and to talk about the importance of levelling up. Guys, you were supposed to have thought about this stuff three years ago.

It took the Northern Ireland minister, Steve Baker, to interrupt the snooze fest. He apologised to Ireland and the EU for previously not taking their concerns seriously. The UK government was signalling a thaw in its Brexit negotiations. Who would have had money on ERG hardman Baker being the peacemaker? It was certainly a first. The first time any Brexiter had ever said sorry for Brexit. Keep them coming.

One person who did seem to be living her best life was Liz Truss herself. Maybe she's thrilled to have discovered she's even more unpopular than she hoped. That could be one for her and her therapist. With interest rates rocketing, opinion polls tanking and the Tory party flatlining, you'd have thought the last thing the prime minister would have wanted was to look chipper for the party conference and negotiate Laura Kuenssberg on the Sunday politics TV show.

Think again. Truss came out with all smirks blazing. She has no natural affect so her artificial stupidity must have been preset to happy. To manage to be upbeat and catatonic at the same time is quite the achievement. Look on the bright side. Everyone might be feeling broke and insecure, but at least she was having a good time. She's a gas. But she's inert. Radon Liz. The interview ended with Radon Liz sampling John Cage's 4'33 when Kuenssberg asked how many people had voted for her idiocy. Though, to be fair, it could just be that her batteries were dying. "What do you mean by that?" Truss eventually asked. Computer said no. She hadn't a clue.

Sometimes it's a mystery to her how she became prime minister. Then again, it's increasingly a mystery to the rest of us.

A Liz Truss water bottle: £16.95 at the conference







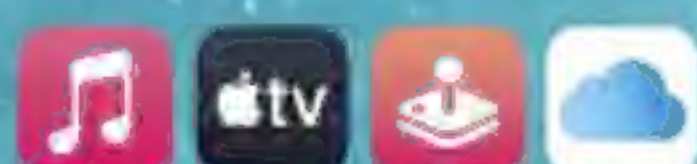
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# Brother of Moors murder victim 'frustrated' over search for body

Robyn Vinter

The brother of Moors murder victim Keith Bennett has said he is frustrated, annoyed and confused by an author's claims in the media to have discovered the 12-year-old's body as police said the search would continue for the "foreseeable" future.

Forensic teams who have been digging since Thursday have so far found nothing at a spot on Saddleworth Moor, near Manchester, where Russell Edwards said he came across what he believed to be the remains of Keith, who was murdered in 1964 by Ian Brady and Myra Hindley.

Posting on Facebook, Alan Bennett, Keith's closest surviving family member, wrote: "Instead of doing the rounds of media outlets, maybe that bloke should return to the moor and be a lot more accurate about the facts and location of his find."

"There's a lot more I would like to say and ask but out of respect and gratitude for the cold case team and the forensic team I'll keep quiet for now."

In a follow-up comment he said he was "confused, to say the very least" at why the dig, near where Brady and

Hindley's four other child victims were found, had yielded no results.

He said there appeared to be "more than meets the eye" to Edwards' claims. "I am just getting frustrated, annoyed, confused and feeling a lot more emotions because there is more to this than meets the eye and I cannot understand why that bloke appears not to have been exact in his information to the police about the location."

"Surely, he cannot have forgotten exactly where it is after his claims about his years of investigations."

Keith's family have suffered decades of futile searches and false alarms, many of which were reported to the press before the police.

Alan Bennett wrote: "There are

**'That bloke should return to the moor and be a lot more accurate about the location of his find'**

Alan Bennett  
Keith Bennett's brother

two (out of many) occasions that stick out in my memory of finds on the moor. One was found by ourselves when we came across some material with press-stud fastener, like those on a casual jacket. We immediately contacted the police and the site was investigated the following morning.

"Unfortunately, somebody informed the press once everybody had returned home to their various locations on the day of the find. It turned out to be nothing related to Keith, it was piece of camping equipment."

"Then a sheep farmer found some bones, unfortunately he contacted the press before the police (does that ring a bell in this case as well). The

Police on Saddleworth Moor, near Manchester, continue the search for the body of Keith Bennett yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: MATT LOFTHOUSE/SWNS



police went to the moor and erected a tent before examining the find. It turned out to be sheep bones."

Yesterday, the senior investigating officer, DCI Cheryl Hughes from Greater Manchester police, said: "Following information received which indicated that potential human remains had been found on the Moors, specialist officers from GMP have today again resumed excavation of a site identified to the force."

"We have not found any identifiable human remains but work to excavate the site is continuing and will do so for the foreseeable time."

Keith is the only Moors murder victim whose burial location was never revealed. Brady, who claimed he had

forgotten where he buried the boy, died in 2017 and Hindley in 2002.

Keith's mother, Winnie Johnson, regularly returned to Saddleworth Moor in the hope of finding her son before her death in August 2012.

The forensic archaeologist who identified a child's jawbone in pictures taken by Edwards at the site said she was "absolutely" sure there was a body but the forensic team's progress was likely to be "painstakingly slow".

Dawn Keen told the Guardian: "I know my profession. I know what I saw on the day."

Police teams were forced to halt work on Friday afternoon as a result of wind uprooting the two blue forensic tents.

## Food banks plead for 'torrent of support' as demand soars and donations decline

Josh Halliday

A food bank serving the London neighbours of Liz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng has said it will struggle to survive this winter without "a torrent of support" for families who are going hungry.

Greenwich food bank said it had distributed 92,000 emergency meals to residents this year - already more than last year's total - and that it was forecast to hit 130,000 by Christmas Day. Demand for food is now so great in the borough that a new food bank is set to open just 500 metres from where the prime minister and the chancellor are neighbours.

Jamie Ginns, the chief executive of Greenwich food bank, said it faced "serious operational issues" this winter that would be worsened if Truss's government refused to increase benefits in line with inflation.

He said: "For over a year now we've been hearing stuff in Greenwich about people choosing between

heating or eating. I spoke to one guy pretty recently who was having to cook entirely off a camping gas stove in his kitchen. Even the phrase 'trickle-down economics': people don't need a trickle, they need a torrent of support, times are that hard."

Ginns said there were "pockets of real poverty" in the streets surrounding the smart £1m Georgian terraces where Truss and Kwarteng live, part of the so-called Greenwich Gang, which includes the former Brexit secretary David Frost and the foreign secretary, James Cleverly.

A survey of 64 food banks across Britain, carried out by the donations platform Bankuet, found that almost all were facing soaring demand at a time of falling donations. Three in four said they were busier or as busy now as they had been at the height of

the Covid-19 pandemic, while 47% said they had already given out "cold packs" to people who could not afford to use gas or electricity to heat food. All expected demand to rise further.

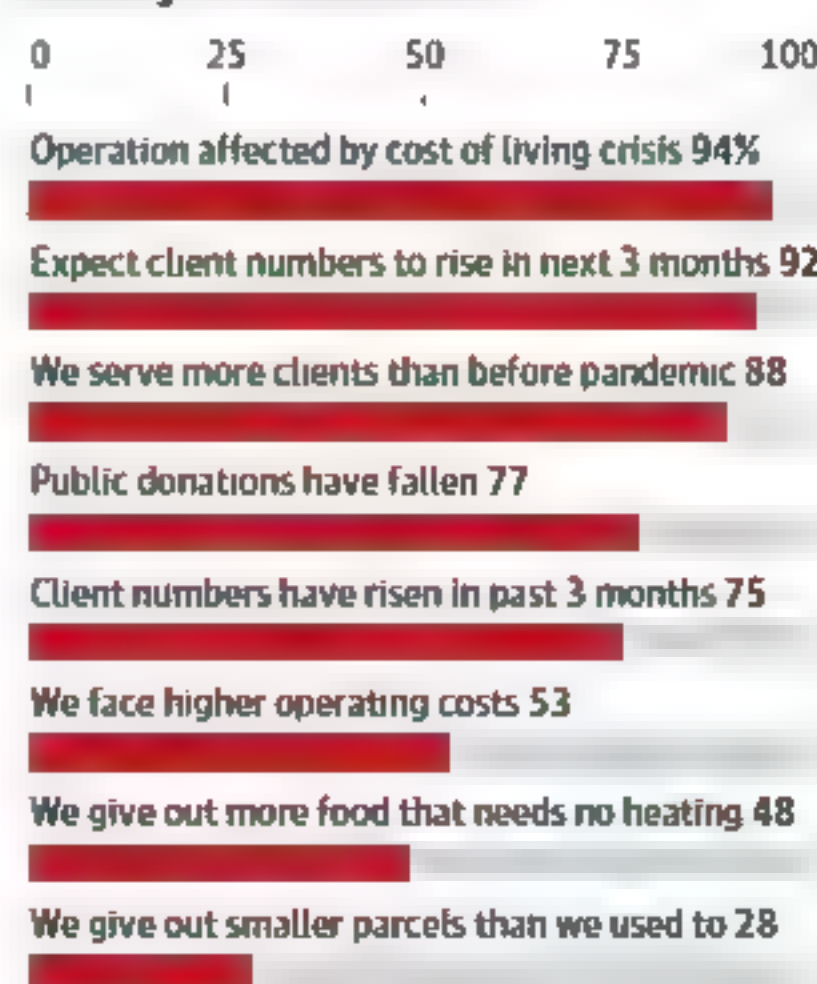
Greenwich food bank, part of the Trussell Trust network, said it was distributing 4.5 tonnes of food a week. The drop in donations meant it was having to raid its reserves.

Ministers are said to be drawing up plans for real-terms benefits cuts, saving £5bn by increasing them in line with earnings rather than with inflation.

Truss refused to say yesterday whether benefits would be increased in line with inflation, recorded at 10% in August. During an interview on the BBC's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg, Truss said the work and pensions secretary, Chloe Smith, was "looking at" the issue, adding, "I'm not going to write future budgets on your show."

Her comments came as the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) said that one in five low-income households had gone cold and hungry at the same time this year, even before

### Findings from the cost of living survey of food banks



Source: Bankuet survey of 64 food banks

winter set in. The JRF's latest Poverty in Scotland report includes a survey by Savanta ComRes of 4,196 Scottish households, which highlights the fragility of people's finances and the impact of increasing anxieties on mental health.

A third of those surveyed said they have no savings or savings of less than £250, while single parents were more than twice as likely to have little or no personal safety net. The report also found that going without essentials - including food, heating or clothing

- is already endemic - 65% have cut back on one essential while 26% have cut back on three or more.

Chris Birt, JRF's associate director for Scotland, urged the Scottish government to mitigate the crisis where it could and to resist pressure to follow the UK's government's tax cuts, which the first minister, Nicola Sturgeon, called "morally repugnant".

Birt said: "While the UK government's immoral abandonment of those who need the support most is indefensible, people are now looking to the Scottish government for support, and they deserve no less."

Rebecca Hargreaves, project coordinator for FeedoNeedo charity which operates in Manchester, Birmingham and Bradford, said it was already having to hand out smaller emergency parcels in order to meet the need. She said: "Everyone is worried about their bills going up and that reality will hit soon."

Robin Ferris, the chief executive of Bankuet, said charities were "sounding the alarm bell" as winter closed in and desperately needed donations. Headed: "Trickle-down economics from the government is an inadequate response to the cost of living crisis facing millions. Food banks are seeing unprecedented levels of demand and need our help to get through the winter."

**130,000**

The number of emergency meals Greenwich food bank expects to have distributed by Christmas Day

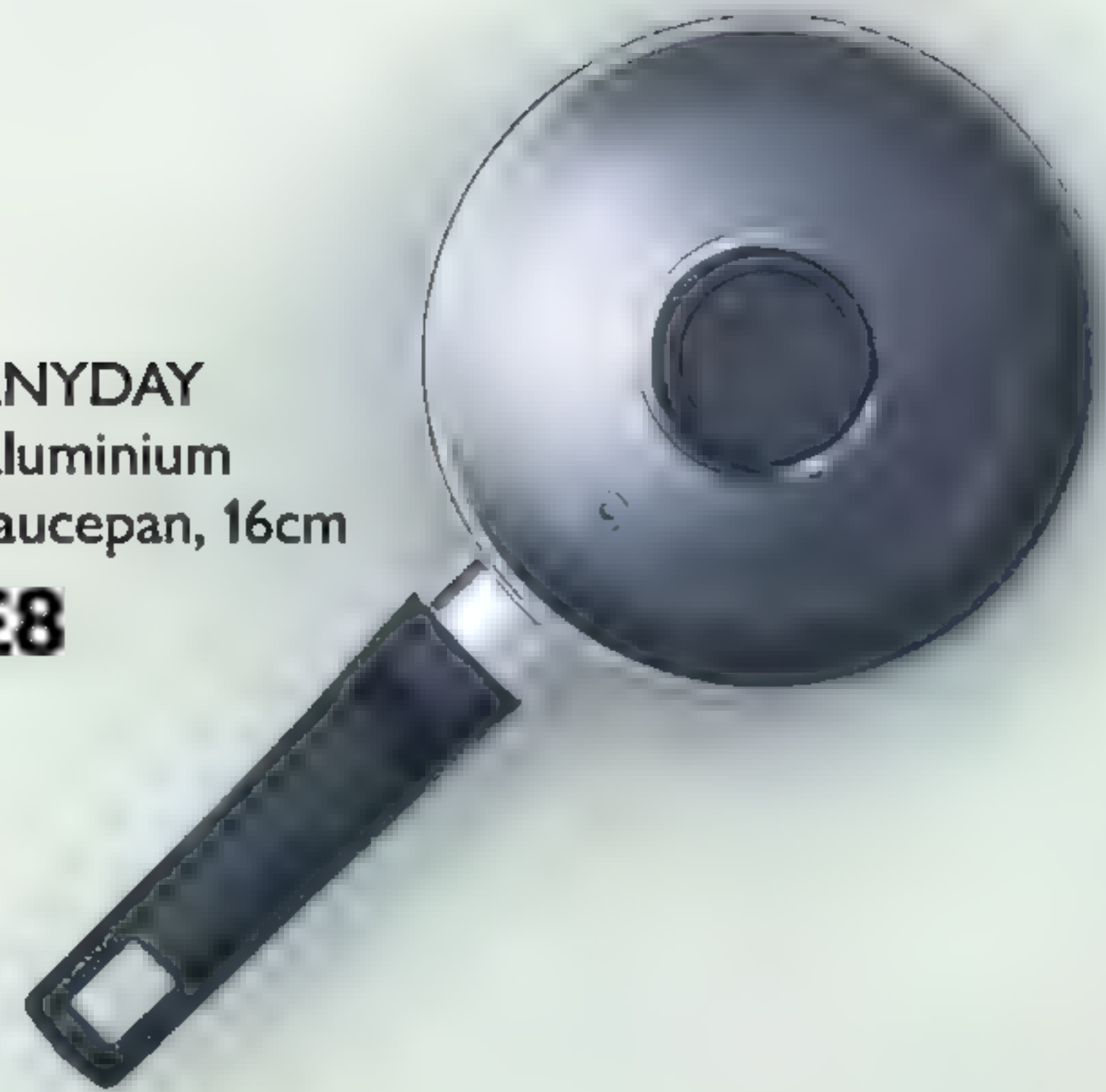




QUALITY  
AT EVERY  
PRICE

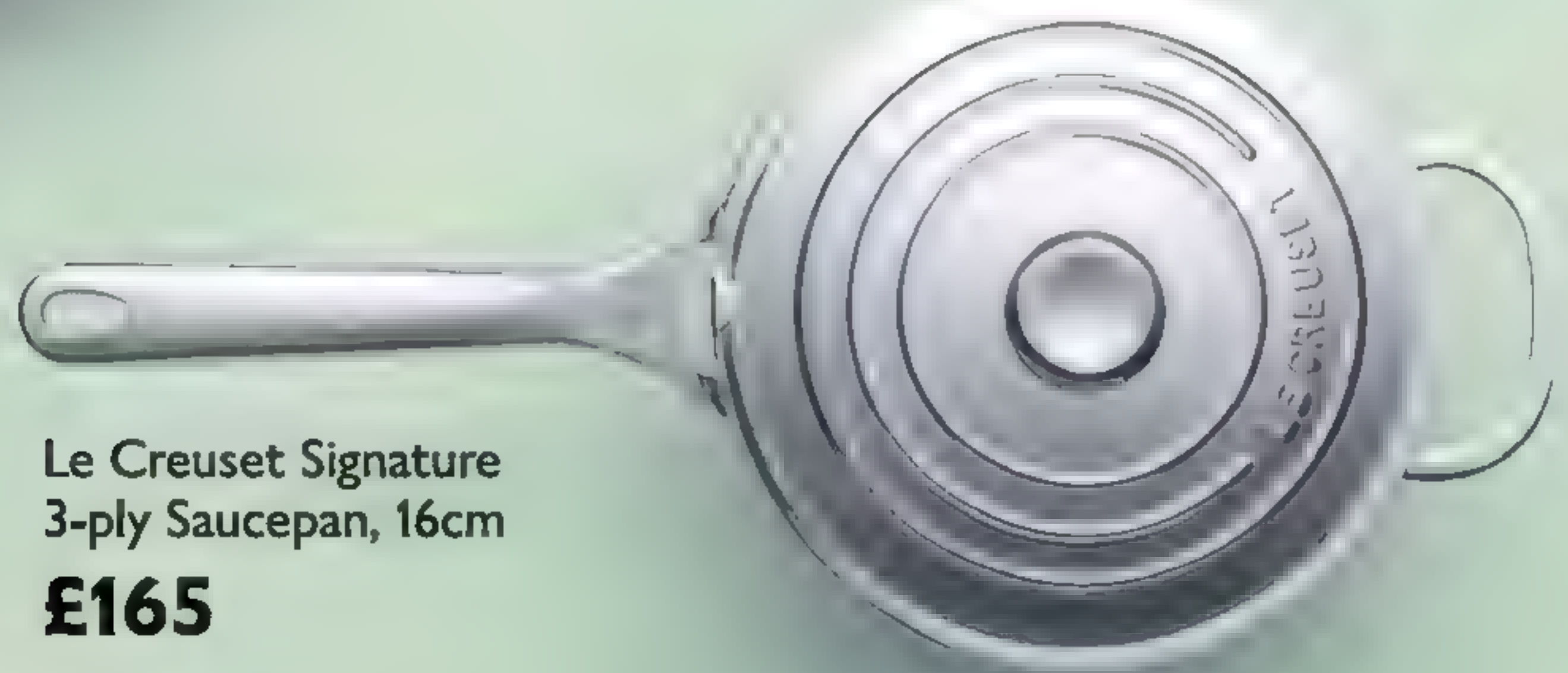
ANYDAY  
Aluminium  
Saucepan, 16cm

**£8**



John Lewis Classic  
Stainless Steel  
Saucepan, 16cm

**£45**



Le Creuset Signature  
3-ply Saucepan, 16cm

**£165**



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## 'Lost without it': locals fight to save listed Turkish baths

**Helen Pidd**

*North of England editor*

One of the UK's last public Turkish baths faces closure this month unless campaigners can change their local council's mind in time.

Carlisle's Victorian-style baths opened in 1909, and was awarded a Grade II listing in 2010 in recognition of their decorative tiling and glazed stonework, as well as the stained-glass ceiling above the plunge pool.

One of the most affordable Turkish baths in the UK, with entry costing £7.10, it has a devoted community of regulars who use the sauna and three hot rooms.

But Carlisle city council decided to mothball the complex after investing £27m in a new leisure centre on the other side of town. That is due to open in mid-October, when staff from the operators, GLL/Better, are due to transfer to the new site.



▲ The fate of Carlisle's Turkish baths will be decided by councillors today

Time is tight to save the baths, with councillors set to decide today whether to close the site or maintain it, while campaigners work on a plan to take over and develop the baths as a community asset. They hope to transform the site into a "health and wellbeing centre", turning one of the pools into a hydrotherapy facility, opening up treatment rooms and installing extras, such as an ice grotto alternative to the plunge pool.

Running the site each month costs about £15,000, the council estimates, with heating bills likely to rise in coming months. Twelve bathers are

allowed for each session, with entry limited by the number of curtained changing rooms, each with a bed for relaxing post-sweat or steam.

Regular patrons say they are distraught at the prospect of losing their sanctuary. "I'd be lost without it, to be honest," said Donna Darlington, a beauty therapist who visits the centre at least once a week. "It's so important for my mental health."

Gill Roncarelli, who started visiting the baths 23 years ago to soothe her aching limbs while working as the head of dance at the University of Cumbria, said that after each

visit, "you feel like you've been on holiday".

Iain Young said he came up to four times a week – "it's addictive!" – for the camaraderie as much as the health benefits. "We have one or two chaps who have depression and they feel safe talking about it in the sauna. It's amazing how a bathing costume can level the field," Young said.

One regular was a recovering alcoholic who started coming at the weekends when all of his friends were going to the pub, said Julie Minns, the chair of Friends of Carlisle Victorian and Turkish Baths, which has secured funding for a viability study for the group's proposal.

Her mother, Freda, 88, remembers visiting the baths in the 1960s when attendants gave massages, and would deliver tea and toast to bathers cooling down in the cubicles. "She would arrive stressed after a shift in the factory and would say she left feeling a million dollars," said Minns.

The first Turkish baths in Britain and Ireland opened in 1852 in County Cork and, over the course of the next century, about 700 were built. Only 12 remain in operation.

Turkish baths are known for their healing waters. The original sign for Carlisle's baths suggests people should take regular baths for the "alleviation of rheumatism and kindred ailments, general tonic effect, obesity and alleviation of stress".

## Pair accused of assault on Duke of York 'heckler'

**PA Media**

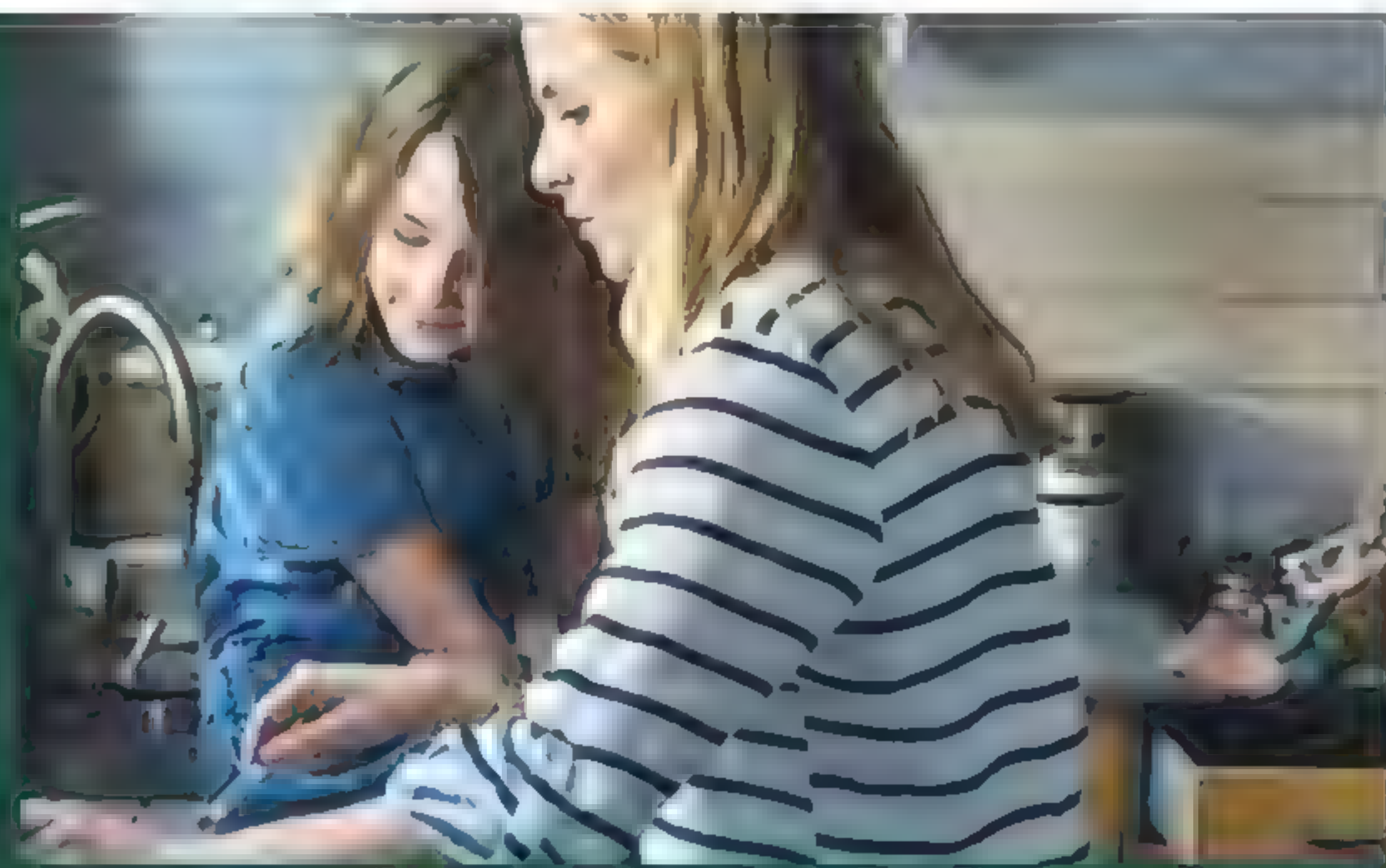
Two men have been arrested and charged in connection with an alleged assault on a man who "heckled" the Duke of York during the Queen's coffin procession in Edinburgh.

The incident happened at about 2.50pm on Monday 12 September as the monarch's four children followed the hearse from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to St Giles' Cathedral.

A 22-year-old man appeared to heckle the Duke of York and the two men, both aged 34, allegedly pulled him to the ground. Previously, the 22-year-old man was charged with breach of the peace over the incident. He was released by police on an undertaking to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court at a later date.

A Police Scotland spokesperson said: "Two men, both aged 34, have been arrested and charged in connection with assault following an incident on the Royal Mile ... A report will be sent for the consideration of the procurator fiscal."

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A close-up portrait of a woman with dark skin, wearing a light-colored headscarf and a green jacket. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

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# Charity says Ukrainian hosts scheme 'unworkable' as it cuts rehoming help

Diane Taylor

A leading charity that has been helping the government with rehoming Ukrainian refugees with hosts after initial placements end or break down is to scale back its work because it says the scheme is unworkable.

Refugees at Home is one of five organisations listed as "recognised providers" on the gov.uk website to help match and rematch Ukrainian refugees with hosts.

Hosting arrangements are for a minimum of six months and many are now coming to an end after the scheme opened in March. As fewer hosts are coming forward rematching requests are increasing.

Many Ukrainian households that relocated to the UK have become homeless – about a third of them in London. According to government figures, from 24 February to 26 August 1,565 Ukrainian households were registered as homeless.

The hosting charity said: "We are extremely sorry that Refugees at Home is unable to help with any

rematching requests under the Homes for Ukraine scheme for placements not originally made through Refugees at Home."

It added: "This is due to the conditions and requirements of the Homes for Ukraine scheme."

"As well as hosts and guests we have been approached by a number of local authorities who have asked us to support them in making these rematches. Regrettably we are unable to do so because of the complexities surrounding the current scheme."

The Local Government Association has also expressed concern about the housing situation for Ukrainian refugees. James Jamieson, the chair of the LGA, said councils, Ukrainians and hosts needed "certainty" about next steps.

"There are concerns that more Ukrainian families may need to present as homeless as a result of a lack of sponsors or other options," he said. "As the number of Ukrainians presenting as homeless continues to gradually rise alongside the cost of living crisis, support to sponsors may need to be enhanced to encourage new or existing hosts to

## Home secretary pledges immigration crackdown

The home secretary, Suella Braverman, has said the UK has too many low-skilled migrant workers and high numbers of international students who often bring dependants, raising questions over Liz Truss's plans to increase the numbers of employees allowed into the UK.

In an interview with the Sun on Sunday, her first since taking over the role, Braverman also promised to enforce Boris Johnson's plans to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda and reform modern-slavery laws to make it easier to remove people who say they have been subjected to forced labour. Braverman said the new prime minister aimed to stick to a 2019 election pledge to lower net migration.

"What we've got is too many low-skilled workers coming into this country," she said. "We've also got a very high number of students coming into this country and we've got a really high



▲ Suella Braverman plans to press on with deportations to Rwanda

number of dependants. They're not necessarily working or they're working in low-skilled jobs, and they're not contributing to growing our economy."

Braverman said she wanted to restrict the ability of migrants to challenge deportation on the basis that they had been subjected to forced labour. She added: "There's a crisis on the Channel and it's been going on for far too long ... we are at a stage now where we need to take dramatic action." **Rajeev Syal**

sponsor in the longer term as inflation and energy costs increase."

Robina Qureshi, the chief executive of the charity Positive Action in Housing, which has matched more than 350 Ukrainians with hosts in Scotland, England and Northern Ireland, said there was a lack of strategy and "layers upon layers of chaos" in the government hosting scheme. "NGOs are doing what we can based on our own expertise, but we are watching a ticking timebomb," she said.

Sara Nathan, a co-founder of Refugees at Home, said the charity's work for initial matches between Ukrainians and hosts would continue, but it would only work on rematching requests from Ukrainian refugees for whom it had made initial hosting placements.

Last month the charity had turned down 60 rematching requests. "We have found it very difficult to help with rematching. It's just too bureaucratic and there's no mechanism for one local authority to talk to another about this. There needs to be a policy to sort this out. We can't expect local authorities to do it," Nathan said.

A government spokesperson said: "We continue to work closely with Refugees at Home and local councils to ensure families have somewhere to stay ... For guests who do move on, we launched rematching in May, which has been successful in finding families ongoing accommodation and we are working with councils to expand this service."

## Paris fashion week gets a surprise from Kanye West

Jess Cartner-Morley  
Paris

It took several minutes for the Paris fashion week audience to realise they had just witnessed Kanye West make his first-ever appearance as a catwalk model.

With his black hoodie pulled up over a Balenciaga baseball cap, there was something familiar about the man in an oversized flak jacket and baggy leather jeans – the beard, the lurching swagger – and after some zooming in on their phone videos, the penny dropped.

One of the most influential musicians of his generation had just added catwalk modelling to an eclectic CV that encompasses 21 Grammys, fashion collections, a long-running guest cameo role in the Kardashian celebrity circus, and a near-miss at a run for the White House.

Balenciaga has made itself the most compelling luxury brand in the world by taking the most vacuous and ludicrous elements of fashion week and turning them upside down in order to say something interesting.

Putting a celebrity on the catwalk to get a show noticed is an old trick; putting one of the most famous men in the world in his show incognito was,



Kanye West and models at the Balenciaga summer 2023 show in Paris

said Demna, Balenciaga's Georgian fashion designer – who, like Ye, as West now prefers to be known, goes by only one name – a message that we should value our individualism and not fawn over celebrity.

If you assume fashion is all about glamour and escapism, you will have some catching up to do at Balenciaga. Demna has declared polish and perfection to be "pretty old school", and shaken up Paris fashion week with a gritty, dystopian aesthetic.

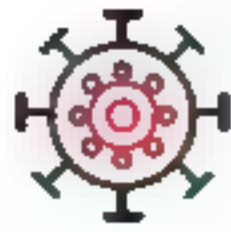
The invitation for the show was a beaten-up wallet complete with an ID card – in the name of a longtime Balenciaga employee – and a faded snap of a cat tucked behind the coin pouch. The catwalk was a muddy track that splashed dirt on to the clothes on the catwalk, soundtracked by a gunfire rumble of techno. Aspirational lifestyle moment, this was not.

This is fashion for the age of BeReal rather than Instagram. Just as a Chanel catwalk is bedazzled with pearls and camellias, Balenciaga's is dotted with the treasures of real life: AirPods in ears, a house key swinging from a ponytail, bags modelled on crisp packets gripped in one hand.

Yet Balenciaga is still most definitely fashion. The slump of oversized bomber jackets is a streetwear update of the egg and cocoon shapes with which Cristóbal Balenciaga, the founder of the house, radicalised Paris fashion in his own era 70 years ago. The emphasis of black is not just a nod to dystopia, but to the power of black to emphasise the exaggerated silhouettes that are a Balenciaga trademark of past and present.

Ye may have another surprise in store for Paris fashion week, with rumours of a catwalk show for his own Yeezy brand.





# 'I've missed important years': how lockdowns changed a generation

In the latest instalment of a Guardian series, young people tell **Amelia Hill** how the pandemic affected them and continues to influence their lives

## 'With the world exploding, I didn't feel I had choices'

Michael Nesi-Pio, 20

Nesi-Pio was in his final year of A-levels when the coronavirus pandemic hit

I had planned to take a year out, but when Covid hit, I panicked and grabbed the first degree course my teachers recommended, which was chemistry. I wasn't able to take my exams and my teacher-assessed grades were lower than my predictions, so I didn't get my place at Manchester. I snatched the first alternative course I could find, which was in Sheffield. With the world exploding, I didn't feel I had any choices.

It was a disaster. I think I became

depressed. I was so lonely and miserable in lockdown in Sheffield and I spent all day in my room in the dark. My girlfriend eventually persuaded me to drop out and I left in March 2021 with an £11,000 debt. I reapplied to Manchester and got in to study politics and philosophy.

I think what I went through was good: it's only when you experience something bad that you realise what makes you happy.

Photograph by Joel Goodman



## 'I'm quite scared and I feel old before my time'

Marcel Charowski, 12

Marcel, 12, lives in London and is in his first year of secondary school

The pandemic definitely changed me. I was carefree before it hit. Now I'm quite scared and negative. I feel old before my time. One of the worst things was not being able to visit my grandparents in Poland.

I could see them getting older over Zoom and I was scared they would die before I could visit them again.

I also had the last year of primary school taken away from me. I didn't have a chance to say goodbye to anyone. I lost those friends for good over lockdown - we tried to stay in touch but we drifted apart.

My dad nearly died thanks to Covid. My mum spent a lot of time at the hospital with him and I had to wait at home, worried every day that she would tell me he'd died. It's probably why I worry a lot about death now. Death is always waiting for you. Now I don't get excited about anything.

Photograph by Mark Pinder



## 'Christmas dinner was left outside my bedroom door'

Kate Nichols, 20

Nichols, from Newcastle, is in her final year at Cardiff University

I got Covid on 21 December 2021 and, 10 months later, have still not recovered. Last week, I got referred to a chronic fatigue syndrome clinic, which I hope will help.

Christmas with Covid was

really sad. We had to cancel my grandparents coming round, so they were on their own with no time to arrange an alternative. My Christmas dinner was left outside my bedroom door. After I'd finished, I had to wipe my plate, glass and cutlery with antiseptic wipes. It was lonely and grim.

I have problems with tiredness, brain fog and breathing - there's a crackling in my lungs - and if I go out with friends, I'm destroyed for the next few days.

It's frustrating. So much of student life revolves around the nightlife, but I can't risk getting behind in my studies.

Photograph by Mark Pinder

## 'Doing a dance degree in front of a laptop is no fun'

Eoin O'Loughlin, 20

O'Loughlin moved from Dublin to Dundee to study at the Scottish School for Contemporary Dance

We were happy to do lockdown at the time but problems have come



since because the government hasn't acknowledged what we sacrificed. I think that sense of community has been burnt out of us. I'm not sure my generation would be as willing to sacrifice ourselves for other people a second time. I think we all feel our goodwill was taken advantage of.

The pandemic was dreadful for me. It stunted me at the exact moment I was ready to burst out creatively and socially, and start exploring and making my mark on the world. The pandemic meant that I had to adapt from being a child to an adult with no transition period - I missed my secondary school exams and graduation, along with my 18th and 19th birthdays. I missed my first year of college - doing a dance degree at home in front of a laptop is no fun.

Because of the pandemic I met the love of my life and am now happier than I've ever been. If you take Jack into account, all the pain of the pandemic was definitely worth it. But I wish I hadn't had to go through that to meet him.

Photograph by Murdo MacLeod

## 'The pandemic led to me reframing my whole life'

Jess Paine, 22

Paine completed her degree at Birmingham University and is now in Greece working with refugees

The pandemic was, as weird as this sounds, incredibly positive and life-affirming for me. It led directly to me reframing my whole life and changing the foundations of my identity. Gone are the ambitions for a high-flying career: I want to help people by being actively political.

I was loving Birmingham when Covid hit and we were all told we had to go home. I had to leave this amazing, massive city behind me and head back to the tiny, rural village that I thought I'd left behind me for good. I'm an incredibly optimistic person; I felt I was lucky to have a home to go back to.

I started doing volunteer work during lockdown. The experience of giving back to the community has changed my future plans entirely. I'd always thought I'd go into academia but I've realised that my calling is in volunteering.

Lockdown also gave me time to come to faith. I was already talking with a Christian student group

before Covid and we continued the conversations. I don't think I would have found my way to Christ had it not been for the lockdown: I had the time to think about the bigger things. It's something of a miracle. There, I said it! A miracle. That's really how I feel.

Photograph by Fabio De Paola







## 'I shut down and spent a lot of time feeling angsty'

Zubaydah Abdi, 19

Abdi lives with her parents and her five siblings and has just started studying medicine at King's College London

The years between 16 to 18 are a blur to me: I feel like I'm a 16-year-old stuck in a 19-year-old's body without the experiences or skills to fulfil their responsibilities.

This does make me sad: the years I've missed are important - you're supposed to have all sorts of experiences to form the adult you become. But my life during those key years had no substance to it: it was just school and home.

The pandemic also had an impact on me emotionally. We had relatives who died and that, combined with all the other awful things that went on over those two years, led to me becoming fairly



## 'I haven't had my first kiss or even been on a date'

Eliza Niblett, 20

Niblett, from Leicestershire, has just started her third year studying experimental psychology at Oxford University

One of the saddest impacts of the pandemic is that I still haven't had my first kiss. I've never even been on a date. I'm a lesbian and at school, that was difficult. I thought it would become easier when I got to university but it didn't happen because of Covid and now it seems like a big, scary thing instead of an exciting, natural step.

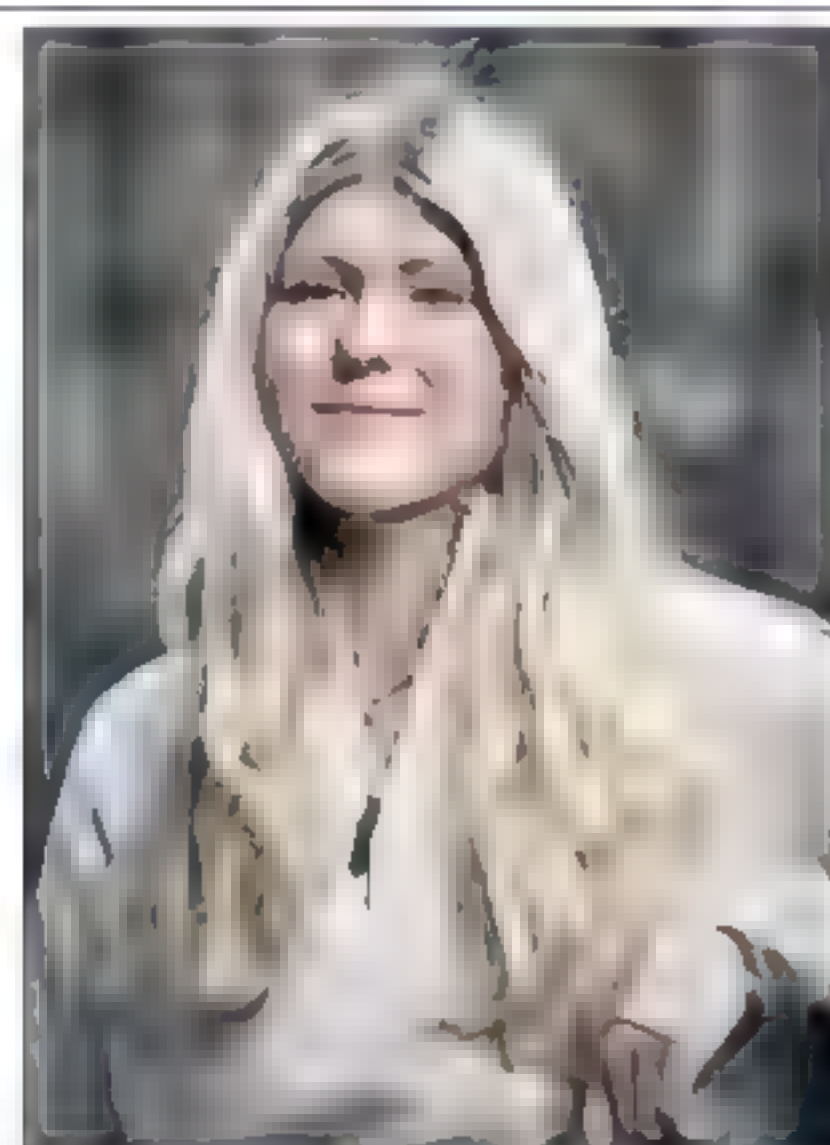
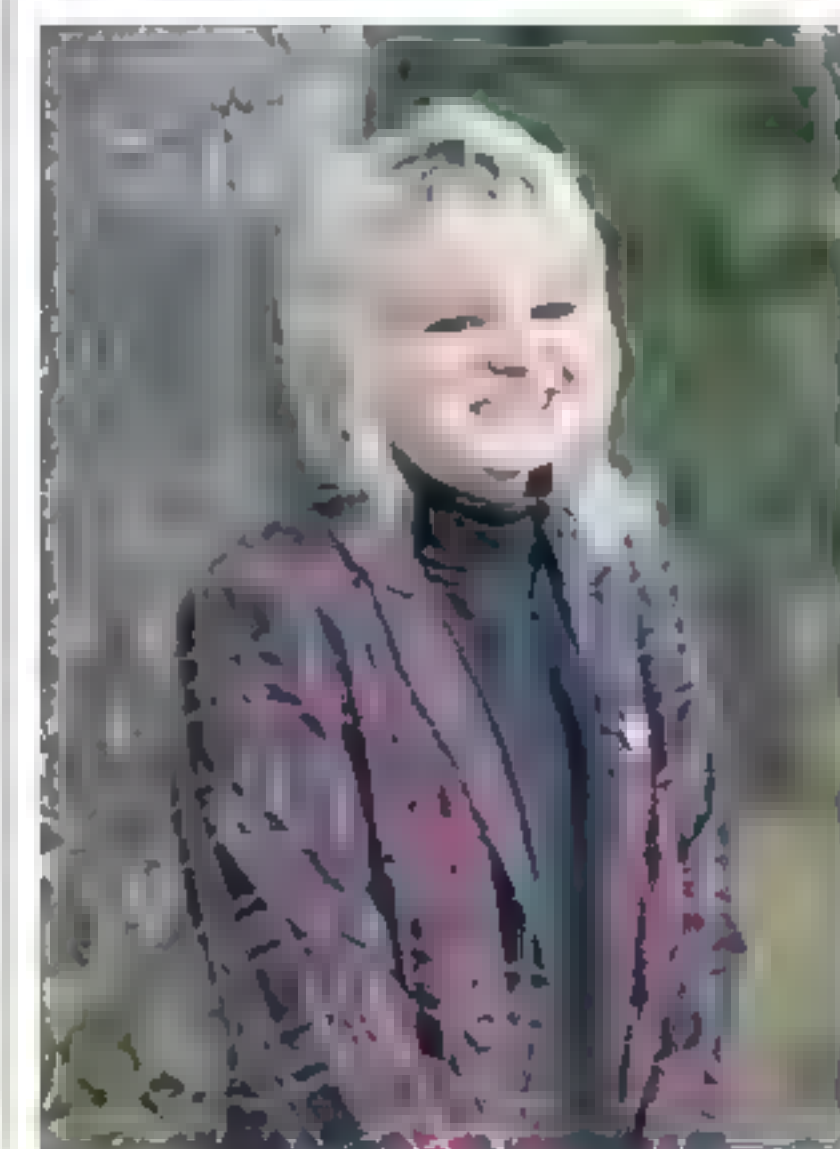
Even though university is finally back on track after a really difficult first year, I missed so much because of the pandemic that I don't feel ready to be where I am. I spent my second year at uni playing catch-up, both academically and socially, but I'm still getting used to the idea of interacting with people: I've never gone out and got drunk; I've never been in a nightclub or done a pub crawl. I wanted to do that sort of thing when I first got to university but now the moment has passed and it just seems really scary to go out and lose control.

Covid mucked up lots of other things for me that I'm still affected by. I was given A-level grades based on an algorithm that the government later admitted disadvantaged state-school students like me. The grades my teachers had estimated for me were downgraded, which meant I lost my place at Oxford.

It was devastating, and I decided to get the government to change their minds. I organised an open letter to the education secretary using testimonies from people who had also been affected. I spoke on local radio and TV, and lots of people sent messages of support.

Eventually, the government announced the grading U-turn and Oxford reinstated my place. But it didn't undo how traumatising it has all been. The stress of feeling I'm constantly on thin ice is exhausting.

Photograph by Graeme Robertson



## 'I realised I value a slow life; being able to feel young'

Ella Thornton, 20

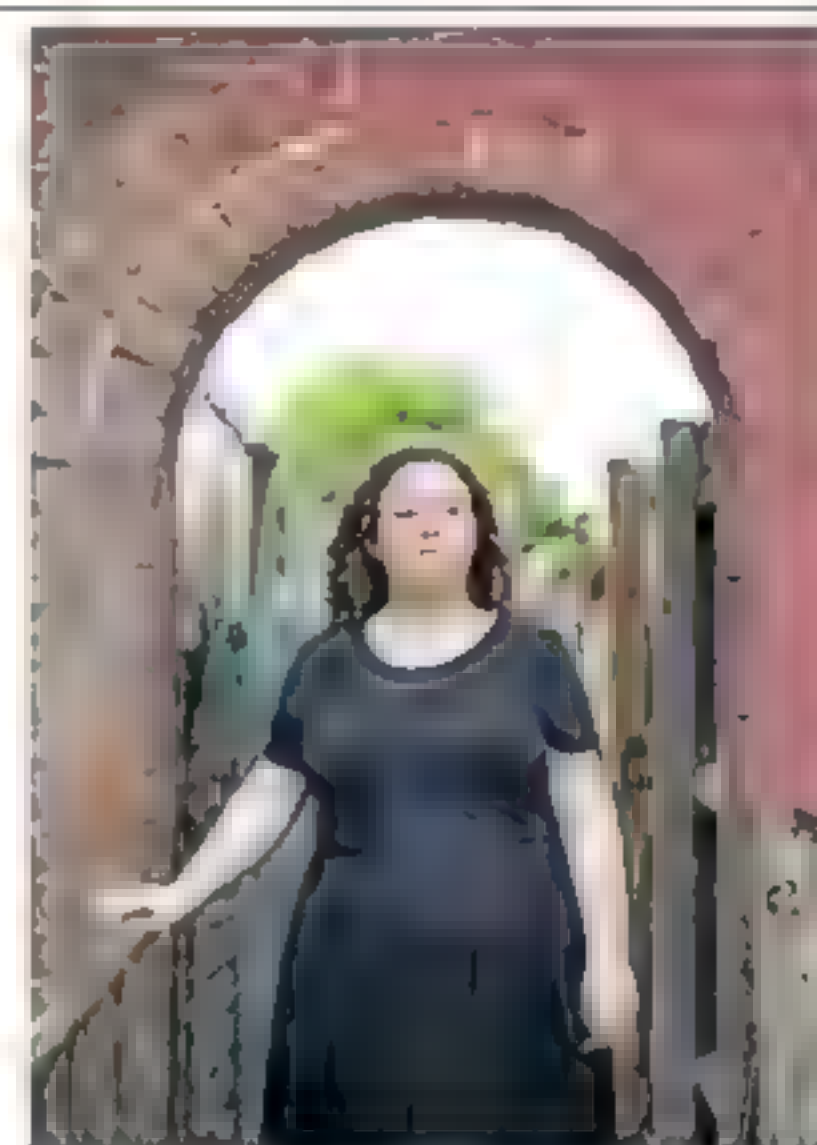
Thornton left Cambridge University after a year in 2021 and is now studying education at the University of East Anglia

The pandemic transformed my life for the better but it was an incredibly painful journey. The first thing Covid did was to stop me

from being able to properly finish school. Though I was heartbroken, lockdown was the first time I'd had a big rest for years. I wasn't waking up with a racing heart. I felt like a hamster that had been able to step off the wheel. It gave me the space to re-evaluate what matters to me. It healed me.

I realised that I value a slow life, spending time with friends, not being stressed. I value being able to feel silly and young. I still went to Cambridge but I quickly realised it was no longer who I was and I had the courage to step away. I'm now at UEA and having an amazing time. I am very, very happy.

Photograph by Joshua Bright



## 'I didn't need to be anything for anybody'

Lily Smith, 19

Smith, from Manchester, is in her second year studying musical theatre at Anglia Ruskin University

I feel guilty saying this but the



pandemic was, for me, a brilliant thing: it changed my life and I'll always be grateful.

I was doing A-levels when Covid hit and intended to study sciences at university. I was finding my courses hard but it got much worse during lockdown. I began feeling hopeless and overwhelmed. It was a bleak time. I had counselling but after a while, the isolation began to have a different effect: I realised it was nice to be on my own and I didn't need to be anything for anybody. I had stepped off the conveyor belt of school, expectation and achievement.

I realised I'd been pushing myself towards a career in science because that's what everyone told me to do but it wasn't who I was.

I found myself playing the piano more and suddenly I realised I could choose to make myself happier - and do something in the arts. Then it hit me: I was going to be a stage actor. An amazing singing tutor helped me work on auditions for different universities. I am so happy now.

Photograph by Sophia Evans

## 'I got closer to my family and started a company'

Eva Yacobi, 14

Eva lives in the south of England and had just started secondary school when lockdown began

Before Covid, I wanted to be a



singer. Now I realise there's nothing stopping me from being an entrepreneur or being a CEO of a big company.

It was all because of lockdown. Home learning was boring - I was so over sitting in front of my computer, doing endless worksheets and lessons. I started making jewellery just for fun, and then it occurred to me I could start a business, sell what I'd made and give the profits to charity.

It was cool to realise all the stuff that seemed so complicated, really wasn't: it wasn't such a big deal to make a website, advertise across social media. I was much more capable than I'd realised.

I also got closer to my family, in particular my younger brother. He and I spent a lot of time together, making art and talking for hours.

Lockdown wasn't great, though. I think my generation gave up a lot more than others because these are such important years for us, where we find change hard. Our schools are putting a lot of effort into helping us transition back into real life but I don't think politicians have done enough.



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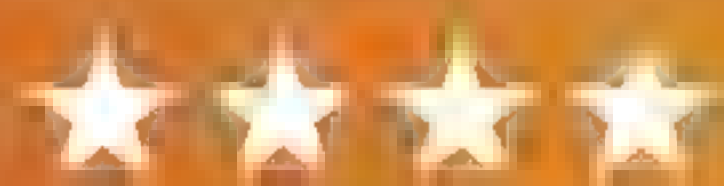
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AND  
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BOYEGA

"THE GLADIATOR OF OUR TIME"

"A SPECTACULAR  
ACTION-FILLED EPIC"

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UK FILM REVIEW

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TIME OUT

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**Ukraine**  
Kyiv's flag flies  
again in Lyman  
Page 24



**'Healing a wound'**  
East German relic  
reborn as art gallery  
Page 25

# World

19



◀ **People help an injured spectator as the use of teargas sparks panic**  
PHOTOGRAPH: XINHUA/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

## At least 125 killed in football stadium crush in Indonesia

Rebecca Ratcliffe  
David Connett  
Adam Fulton

At least 125 people were killed and about 320 injured at a football match in Indonesia in one of the world's worst ever sports stadium disasters. Police used teargas in response to a pitch invasion by rioting fans

on Saturday night, causing a crush among panicked spectators.

Officers and organisers face scrutiny over the tragedy, including questions over the use of teargas inside the venue, which is contrary to Fifa guidance.

The incident occurred after a match in which the Javanese club Arema were defeated by their rivals Persebaya Surabaya at Kanjuruhan

Stadium in Malang regency, East Java. Supporters from the losing side stormed the pitch and the authorities fired teargas, leading to a crush and cases of suffocation, said East Java's police chief, Nico Afinta. Two police officers were among the dead.

Many people were crushed and suffocated after running to one exit, Afinta said. "They went out to one point at the exit, then there was a

buildup - in the process of accumulation there was shortness of breath, lack of oxygen."

Arema's coach, Javier Roca, said: "The most terrible thing was when victims came to be treated by the team doctor. About 20 people arrived and four died. Fans died in the arms of players." A hospital director told local TV that one victim was aged five.

The Fifa president, Gianni Infantino, called the events "a dark day for all involved in football and a tragedy beyond comprehension ... The football world is in a state of shock".

Manchester United and Barcelona posted tributes online, while Spanish football clubs held a minute's silence before matches yesterday.

Indonesia's president, Joko

Widodo, told officials to re-evaluate security at matches and ordered the suspension of Liga 1 matches. This should be the "last soccer tragedy in the nation", he said.

Social media footage and images showed chaotic scenes in which fans clambered to escape thick clouds of teargas, some trying to carry other injured spectators to safety.

Amnesty International's executive director for Indonesia, Usman Hamid, called on the authorities to "ensure that those who are found to have committed violations are tried in open court and do not merely receive internal or administrative sanctions".

Afinta defended the police response yesterday, saying that other measures had been taken before the use of teargas but that fans "began to attack the police, acting anarchically and burning vehicles". Local reports said as many as 3,000 spectators had stormed the pitch. Further clashes occurred outside the stadium, with vehicles set alight.

Persebaya Surabaya fans were not allowed to buy tickets for the game owing to fears of violence between fans, a long-running problem in Indonesia. Seventy-eight people have died in football-related incidents in 28 years, according to official figures given to Channel News Asia in June.

Additional reporting Agencies

## 'No warning' Fans blame police for causing panic

Reno Surya and  
Johanes Hutabarat  
Jakarta

Just after the match between Arema FC and Persebaya Surabaya had finished at Kanjuruhan stadium on Saturday night, a group of three Arema fans climbed down from the stands, attempting to meet their team's players on the pitch, recalled a spectator who was watching from the southern stand.

It had been a disappointing game

for the home side: they had lost 3-2 to Persebaya Surabaya. This was their first loss to their rivals in 23 years of home matches.

The Arema fans were perhaps going to use their disappointment at their team's performance as an excuse to demand selfies, added Prayogi, 29, who asked not to give his full name. At that point things were still calm, he said.

The situation escalated, however. The small group of fans who had gone down to the pitch seemed to trigger others to leave the stands. Soon hundreds and even thousands crowded the field.

The exact sequence of events is unclear, but social media footage shows police using batons to disperse the crowd, kicking supporters and firing teargas.

Zhafran Nashir, 17, a student who had been watching the match with his brother from the eastern stand, said the teargas had caused panic. "I think it was unnecessary because the riot occurred right on the field," he said. Some on the pitch had tried to get into the players' locker room, but people on the stands were just watching. When teargas was fired, everyone in the stands rushed to leave. People were being trampled, he said. His stand was also fired at. When he tried to escape, he saw two children who had lost their parents in the chaos.

Prayogi, who was watching near gate 13, with his wife and friends, decided to stay put until the

situation had calmed down. "I held out in the stands even as the gas strangled my throat."

Fans were stuck in a deadly crush at a nearby exit. "I think a lot of people were packed tightly enough that many of them broke their bones or fell unconscious after they ran out of breath."

Rahmat, 23, had been watching from the north side along with seven of his friends. His stand too was hit with teargas; his eyes teared up and he felt short of breath. "The police did not warn us before they fired teargas at us. So when the crowd broke it was full of panicked and suffocating people with burning eyes," he said.

"When I first saw the mob, and the chaos around me, I thought that my life would end tonight, that I would surely die here."

Rahmat echoed reports that

the stadium was filled beyond its capacity. "Some of the audience didn't even get a seat," he said.

He waited between between 30 minutes and an hour, by which time things had calmed inside the stadium. But the chaos had extended to the streets. "The first thing I saw after I left the stadium were people lying on the ground. I thought they were just drunk or unconscious. But after I got home, I realised that what I saw then were corpses," Rahmet said.

"I can never forget what happened last night," said Prayogi. "The most painful and terrifying part of all this was opening one body bag at a time to see if I could recognise any friends or family."

"Last night, it felt like a human life had no value."

Sport John Duerden Page 37 >



# Election victory would mark stunning political comeback by Lula

Continued from page 1

victory would represent the latest in a series of triumphs for a resurgent Latin American left, following the election of leftwing leaders in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Colombia.

"I'm going to win these elections so I can give the people the right to be happy again. The people need, deserve and have the right ... to be happy once more," Lula told journalists as he wrapped up his campaigning with a parade through the streets of São Paulo on Saturday.

The prospect of a Lula victory has galvanised leftwing and centrist Brazilians after four years under Bolsonaro, during which nearly 700,000 people have died with Covid and more than 30 million have been plunged into poverty and hunger.

"I feel hope," Lula's biographer and friend Fernando Morais told the Guardian as he prepared to vote, wearing a Jeremy Corbyn T-shirt. "I feel like going out and distributing kisses."

Morais considered Lula's return to power the only way to tackle the intensifying "social tragedy" that was on full show as the biographer drove to the polling station in central São Paulo.

"When you go out at night around here ... only one kilometre from the homes of bankers and big businessmen, you see people freezing to death," Morais said as he turned into a square where dozens of emaciated people had taken shelter under filthy blankets and in tents. A giant banner over the square read: "Brazil has gotten worse".

"This didn't exist 10 years ago ... It's like an improvised refugee camp," Morais said.

Across town near São Paulo's main avenue, Paulista, Lula supporters

flocked to polling stations in T-shirts bearing his name and the star symbol of the Workers' party (PT) he helped found four decades ago.

"Today is a day of hope," said Eduardo Horderle Peruzzo, 35, a University of São Paulo historian. "We know that this election won't fix everything. We know this is the beginning of a long path. But we want Brazil to at least be able to dream of the future again."

His partner, Mariana Moga de Moura Silva, a music teacher, said: "So many of the advances that took decades to achieve have been destroyed over the last four years."

Bolsonaro, a Donald Trump-admiring former army captain, was defiant as he cast his vote in a military neighbourhood on the outskirts of Rio. "I'm confident from what I'm seeing," the 67-year-old populist said.

But polls suggest more than half of Brazilians now reject Bolsonaro, on whose watch Amazon deforestation has soared to record levels and Brazil has become an international outcast.

"I think the end is nigh in the sense that I truly believe Bolsonaro will not win this election," said Flávia Oliveira, a political commentator from the television channel GloboNews.

"Everything in the polls suggests the majority of Brazilian voters no longer support this project as they did in 2018. This project has lost adhesion and has lost allies precisely because it has failed to improve people's lives."

Bolsonaro's authoritarian inclinations and relentless questioning of Brazil's electronic voting system have fuelled concerns he may refuse to accept defeat to Lula. Some fear he may seek to incite turmoil similar to the 6 January invasion of the Capitol in Washington DC if his re-election bid fails, or even a military coup.

Trump backed Bolsonaro on the eve of yesterday's vote with a video message to Brazilians. "He's done an absolutely incredible job," Trump claimed, calling Bolsonaro "one of the great presidents of any country in the world".

Meanwhile, Hungary's far-right prime minister, Viktor Orbán, said in a video shared on social media by the Brazilian president: "I have met many leaders but few as exceptional as president Bolsonaro."

Those declarations further fuelled concern over how Bolsonaro and his radical supporters might behave in the coming hours and days. Asked if he would respect the result of yesterday's election, Bolsonaro turned his back on reporters and walked away.

Additional reporting  
Ana Ionova Rio de Janeiro



## 'He is the exit from our nightmare' Leftwing voters hopeful of success

Tom Phillips São Paulo  
Ana Ionova Rio de Janeiro

Gabriela Leoncio had been waiting for the chance to free Brazil from Jair Bolsonaro for four years.

Yesterday, that chance came. "It's been a joke-slash-tragedy," the restaurant host, 29, said of the president's tumultuous far-right administration as she cast her vote against him.

Leoncio, who was sporting a bright red T-shirt, cap and earrings celebrating the leftwing frontrunner, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, known as Lula, said she was optimistic that her candidate would prevail when 156 million Brazilians chose their new leader. "One phase is coming to an end and another phase, of change and hope, is beginning," she enthused as voters filed into the polling station near Augusta Street in São Paulo, where Lula had held his final campaign event the previous afternoon.

Other voters voiced similar confidence that Bolsonaro's presidency, during which Amazon devastation has skyrocketed,



▲ Voters queue in Rio de Janeiro. Lula's supporters, such as Gabriela Leoncio, below, were keen to avoid a runoff vote PHOTOGRAPH: WAGNER MEIER/GETTY

millions have been plunged into poverty and Covid has killed more than 685,000 Brazilians, was finally coming to an end. Mariana Moga de Moura Silva, 38, a singing teacher, came wearing a sticker featuring Lula's portrait and slogan: "Hope will defeat fear". She voiced disgust at the "vile words" Bolsonaro has used to describe women, and was perplexed that many continued to



Bolsonaro  
casts his vote  
yesterday





◀ Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, known as Lula, a former union leader who was president of Brazil from 2003 to 2010, greets supporters after voting in São Paulo

PHOTOGRAPH: MARCELO CHELLO/AP

support the rightwing populist who was still backed by about a third of voters: "I feel a mix of nausea and anger when I hear him speak."

She was convinced Lula would be victorious. But observers believe it is possible he will fall just short. "If someone tells you they know what's going to happen ... they're either a trickster or they don't know what's going on," said Fábio Vitor, the author of a book about the politics of Brazil's armed forces.

Lula, who was Brazil's president from 2003 to 2010, insisted on the eve of the vote that he was confident of winning outright but would hit the streets to celebrate even if a second round were needed in four weeks' time. "I feel great hope that this election will be decided tomorrow, but if it isn't we'll have to behave like a football team when a match goes to extra time. We'll rest for 15 minutes and then get back out on to the pitch to score the goals we didn't score in normal time," he said.

Earlier in the day, thousands of elated Lula supporters packed Augusta Street to catch a glimpse of their leader and toast the astonishing political revival of a politician who only three years ago was in jail for corruption convictions that were later quashed. "He is the exit route from the nightmare we are living through," said Juliano Medeiros, the president of the Socialism and Liberty party, one of the groups in Lula's coalition.

**'One phase is ending and another phase, of change and hope, is beginning'**

Gabriela Leoncio  
Voter in São Paulo

João dos Santos, 56, an activist from the Front for the Struggle for Housing, said he was convinced Bolsonaro's days were numbered. "He belongs to the past and he will go down in history as the worst president the world has ever seen."

Danilo Lima, 45, an electrician, accused Bolsonaro of plunging the country into political chaos and international isolation. "Brazil is a brothel without a pimp. This nonsense has to stop," he said. "Any Brazilian who votes for Bolsonaro has worms in their head."

Yet many citizens do continue to support the far-right radical, who had insisted he would win yesterday despite all major polling firms predicting his defeat.

"There's no doubt in my mind. It'll be a win in the first round. He's the best thing for this country," said Wellington Moreira Costa, 73, a retired military officer, as he voted in Rio. "He has done an excellent job," agreed Micheline Delolimo, 42, a pharmacist, as she waited to vote with a Brazilian flag draped over her shoulders.

## 'Get back into politics!' How Castro's advice played pivotal role

He is one of Latin America's most enduring politicians – once hailed by Barack Obama as "the most popular president on Earth".

But had it not been for a chiding from Fidel Castro nearly four decades ago, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva might well have abandoned his political career after failing in his attempt to become São Paulo's governor in 1982.

"He gave him a bollocking," Lula's biographer Fernando Morais said. "Listen, Lula ... You don't have the right to abandon politics. You don't have the right to do this to the working class," Castro said, according to Morais's bestselling biography. "Get back into politics!"

Lula's chronicler believes it was a pivotal moment.

In 1989, Lula launched his first, ultimately unsuccessful, bid to become Brazil's first working-class president. He lost two more presidential elections, in 1994 and 1998, before finally achieving his goal in 2002 – a historic triumph.

Lula, 76, was born into rural poverty in the north-eastern state of Pernambuco in 1945. Aged

seven, Lula migrated south with his mother and six siblings in search of a better life, ending up near Santos on the São Paulo coast. Three years later Lula's family moved to the state capital and, strapped for cash, rented the back room of a bar that Lula remembers as a "pigsty".

"When it rained ... rats and frogs would be swept in from the street" Morais said.

He believes such experiences made millions of Brazilians place their trust in a leader whose own life story reflected their own.

In São Paulo, a teenage Lula worked as an office boy before training as a lathe operator during



▲ Lula waves after voting in 2002 in an election he went on to win

the early 1960s, as Brazil was plunged into two decades of military dictatorship. The grind of factory work and the repression of Brazil's 1964-85 military regime served as a wake-up call. When Lula's brother was kidnapped and tortured by security forces in 1975, that was the final straw. "It was a watershed moment," Morais said.

Lula immersed himself in the labour movement and in 1979 led a series of strikes, paving the way for the creation of the Workers' party Lula leads to this day.

After claiming power in 2002, Lula used the windfall from a commodities boom to help millions of citizens escape poverty.

Lula left power in 2010 with approval ratings nearing 90%. But his party became embroiled in a series of corruption scandals. Two years later, Lula was jailed on corruption charges, which were quashed last year.

Now he stands on the brink of what, just a few years ago, seemed an unthinkable return to the presidential palace in Brasília. Tom Phillips São Paulo

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# Eyewitness





▼ Tarragona, Spain  
A human tower reaches its peak at a  
Concurs de Castells competition, a  
tradition at festivals in Catalonia  
PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID RAMOS/GETTY IMAGES





# Zelenskiy: Lyman 'fully cleared' of Russian forces

**Luke Harding**  
Kyiv

Volodymyr Zelenskiy said Ukraine had "fully cleared" Russian forces from the key eastern city of Lyman a day after Moscow admitted its troops had pulled out after they were encircled.

In a video clip on his Telegram channel, Zelenskiy thanked Ukrainian troops for liberating Lyman. "As of 12.30 [Kyiv] local time Lyman is completely cleared," he said, adding: "Glory to Ukraine."

Earlier Zelenskiy said the army would continue its offensive in the south and east and would "return back" all of the territory occupied by Russia, including Crimea. He suggested Russian generals were now "biting each other" after a series of embarrassing setbacks.

Their loss of Lyman four months after Russian forces seized the city in Donetsk oblast amounts to a humiliating moment for Vladimir Putin. On Friday, in a move that was rejected by the international community, he had annexed Donetsk together with three other Ukrainian regions, and said they were a part of Russia "for ever".

Zelenskiy said Ukraine's armed forces would continue to advance. He predicted more "mismatches" between Putin's rhetoric and the reality on the battlefield. Reports suggested Ukrainian troops were pushing forward from Lyman towards the cities of Svatove and Kreminna.

In Lyman, Ukrainian soldiers celebrated their victory. They reclaimed the police station and burned a Russian tricolour in a courtyard. One posted a jubilant video outside the local office of Denis Pushilin, the Kremlin-appointed head of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic.

Pushilin was one of four pro-Russian "leaders" who attended a ceremony in Moscow on Friday where an annexation treaty was signed, with Russia's political elite looking on. Putin promised to use "all means" to defend the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions – an apparent threat to use nuclear weapons.

It was unclear how many Russians were killed during the chaotic retreat from Lyman. Videos showed burned-out vehicles, personal belongings and dead soldiers strewn along a forest road. Ukrainian forces recovered at least one T-72 tank that had suffered minor damage.

In an intelligence briefing, the UK's Ministry of Defence said Russia's forces "probably suffered heavy casualties" as they left the city. Lyman was important because it "commands a key road crossing over the Siverskyi Donets River behind which Russia has been trying to consolidate its defences", it added.

Serhiy Haidai, the governor of the Luhansk region, said Ukraine's counteroffensive in the Donbas region would carry on.

"In the near future we are waiting for the start of a large-scale process of de-occupation in Luhansk oblast,"

he said. Local collaborators were "panicking", he added.

Ukraine also claimed to have liberated a village in the south of the country, where its troops have been pressing on Russian positions around the city of Kherson. Overnight they seized the village of Zolota Balka, next to the Dnieper River. A video shows a local resident posing with a soldier waving a Ukrainian flag.

Russia's defence ministry claimed its forces had destroyed seven Ukrainian artillery and missile depots in Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv and Donetsk provinces.

It said the guidance radar for an S-300 air defence missile system had also been destroyed near Nova Kaluhai in the Kherson region, according to Reuters.

Meanwhile, after a day of silence Moscow confirmed that it had "temporarily detained" the head of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which it has occupied since March. A Russian patrol abducted Igor Murashov on Friday afternoon while he was on his way to work.

Russia is trying to transfer the Zaporizhzhia plant to the Russian energy firm Rosatom, the head of Ukraine's atomic energy company, Petro Kotin, has told the BBC. It is reportedly compelling employees who live in the city of Enerhodar to sign Russian contracts.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has called on Russia to free Murashov. His detention posed a threat to safety and security, it said.



## 'I know we will win' Life and hope return to streets of Sloviansk

**Peter Beaumont**  
Sloviansk

For the city of Sloviansk, the recapture of the strategic hub of Lyman about 12 miles away by Ukrainian forces has brought a new mood of optimism. Yesterday, as a continuous stream of military traffic was visible leaving Sloviansk in the direction of Lyman, the impact of the fall of the railway junction was already transforming Sloviansk, a place that for months has been a ghost city.

Bus services, long suspended because of the danger of shelling and missiles, were operating again. Crowds bustled in the main market. Residents spoke of some who had

fled to safer cities talking about returning. The transformation, say residents, is most noticeable in the countryside on the route towards Lyman, where the roadside woods are dotted with minefield signs and shattered buildings.

A few miles outside the city, Viktor Kuznetsov, 37, a guard at a lumber yard, was pushing his bicycle loaded with groceries he had been to fetch from the city.

Until last week, he explained, this area was under regular Russian artillery fire. "We've been living in the basement. There's 40 of us sheltering in there. But it has got quieter in the last week since Iziurm fell, and now Lyman. Finally we hope we might survive this war."

Walking towards her dacha near an abandoned lake resort, Tatiana Luganov, 60, was bringing food to

her dogs. "They're not hitting us from Lyman any more," she said, adding that the long walk from the city centre where she lives "is now not too bad" with the reduced shelling. "It's been much quieter in the last few days. I'm optimistic. I believe ...". She stops herself. "No, I know that we will win."

Where the frontline was once situated further up this road, by yesterday it had been pushed far beyond Lyman, where fighting continued with the remnants of Russian forces who had been forced into a chaotic retreat, fleeing in a long convoy, under heavy Ukrainian fire. In disarray, the Russians were reported to be facing ambushes in the Kreminna forest.

Speaking to the Guardian from Lyman, Col Serhiy Cheravaty, of the Ukrainian 24th Mechanised Infantry Brigade, said that Ukrainian forces were still pursuing fleeing Russians where they could.

Describing the importance of Lyman he said: "First is its geographic significance. We have opened the gates to Luhansk and Sievierodonetsk. Second is the psychological aspect. The fall of Lyman has boosted both the morale among Ukrainian troops as well as civilians, while on the other hand

**The fall of Lyman  
boosted the morale of  
Ukrainian troops as  
well as civilians**

**Col Serhiy Cheravaty**  
Ukrainian army

▼ Ukrainian troops on the Siverskyi Donets river in the liberated town of Iziurm PHOTOGRAPH: EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

it broke the morale of Russian troops. Then there is the political significance. Putin proclaimed this area as Russian and we already have it back."

Despite the rout of Russian forces, and Lyman's fall, Sloviansk was not entirely quiet. During the Guardian's visit yesterday two shells exploded on the city's outskirts. But it was quiet enough, said residents, to have made a noticeable difference.

The central market was busy with shoppers, while small





▼ Ukrainian soldiers distribute aid in the recently liberated town of Izium, 30 miles north of Lyman

PHOTOGRAPH: EVGENY MALOLETKA/AP



informal markets for vegetables and second-hand goods had popped up in several places.

At her kiosk selling shoes, Olha Mamukashvili, 54, was optimistic that the threat to Sloviansk was at last receding. "It's not completely quiet," she said. "But it is getting busier since the Russians were pushed out of Kharkiv and now Lyman. People are starting to come back. We have water, electricity and even public transport."

The tide has turned in the frontline cities of the Donbas since spring and summer. Then the story was of a grinding Russian advance backed by massive artillery fire that encircled and swallowed up the towns and cities in this area. Now that tide is in reverse, with Russian forces in the east from Kharkiv down to Lyman either being scattered in retreat or - like Lyman - facing a devastating rapid encirclement and destruction.

The significance of the liberation of Lyman, and the continuing offensive, was underlined by Serhiy Haidai, the governor of the Luhansk region that neighbours Donetsk, who said control over Lyman could help Ukraine reclaim lost territory in his region, whose capture Moscow announced in



**Mark Hamill strikes back 'Ukraine needs drones'**

The Star Wars actor Mark Hamill has said Ukraine needs more drones and compared Russia to the dark side of the force in the film series. Hamill, who played Luke Skywalker, was made an ambassador to the United24 fundraising project by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. "[Zelenskyy] did reference the movies," Hamill told the BBC's Laura Kuenssberg. "Star Wars [is] a fairytale ... and fairytales are morality tales of good versus evil ... it's not hard to extrapolate an evil empire with Russia invading a sovereign nation." Asked if the platform would be used to supply lethal technology, he said: "Ukraine needs drones." Emily Dugan

early July after weeks of grinding advances. "The liberation of this city in the Donetsk region is one of the key factors for the further de-occupation of the Luhansk region," Haidai wrote yesterday.

Only on the frontline beyond Kostiantynivka are Russian forces still trying to advance around the towns of Bakhmut and Soledar, failing to make headway even as the Lyman sector has collapsed.

While the situation has improved in Sloviansk, 40 minutes' drive away in Kostiantynivka the sound of Putin's war is still starkly audible, the booms echoing from Bakhmut in the distance.

At the central bus station the sound of the distant fighting is clearer still with a dull thud almost once a minute.

Nadia Andriivna, 70, seemed unperturbed. "The only reason I am still here is that I am an optimist. We hope that we are winning now. Our challenge is to make them run away."

In Lyman, Cheravaty agreed. "I can't tell you what will happen next, but after the success in Lyman our general, Oleksandr Sirskiy [the commander of Ukrainian ground forces], will be preparing his next steps."

## Potsdam Renovated Soviet-era relic 'healing a wound'

Kate Connolly  
Potsdam

For almost three decades, it appeared to have been consigned to the scrap heap of history, a relic of East German communism considered as redundant and unsightly as the Berlin Wall and destined to fall victim to the wrecking ball.

But a former terrace cafe in Potsdam, just west of Berlin, is being lauded as a showpiece of socialist-realist architecture having been saved from demolition by a billionaire German businessman who has recast it as an art gallery.

The Minsk Kunsthaus, or art house, will display Hasso Plattner's extensive collection of East German art, a genre that has frequently been sidelined since the fall of the GDR in 1989, but which is enjoying something of a revival.

Elegant in its simplicity, the modernist construction - once a popular local meeting point and venue for discos and coming-of-age celebrations - has been given a new spiral staircase and a cafe with broad panoramic windows by the architects Linearama from Genoa. Its thought-provoking exhibition on landscape and allotments is attracting visitors and praise from art critics across Europe.

Hans-Dieter Rutsch, who documented the building's reinvention in a film, has called it "an attempt to heal a wound". Others have described it as a gesture of reconciliation.

The Minsk is something of a metaphor, say observers of German unification in 1990, for the way in which the executors of the process of merging the two countries ran

▲ The Minsk Kunsthaus, a former cafe in GDR-era Potsdam, was saved by the entrepreneur Hasso Plattner

PHOTOGRAPH: LAL ISLAV ZAJAC

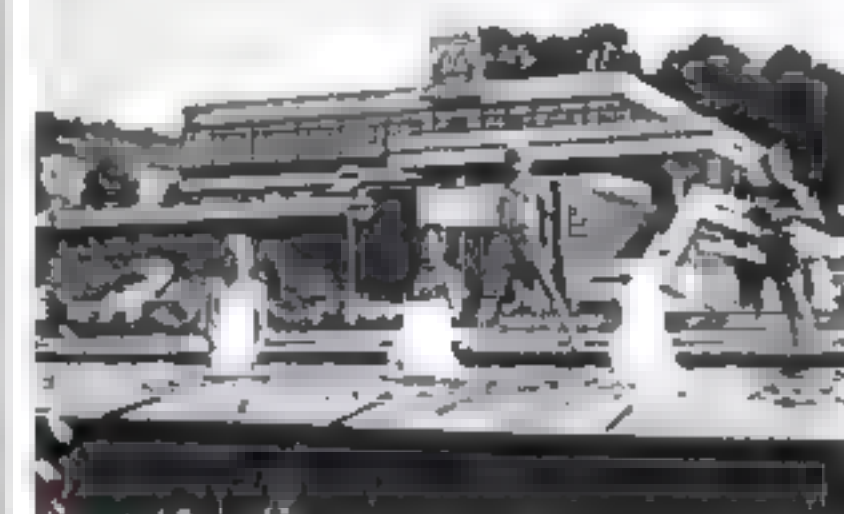
roughshod over the feelings of East Germans. Many felt their identities and biographies were erased as much of the social furniture of their lives was done away with. Nowhere in the former GDR has architecture been such a focal point of this sense of neglect than in Potsdam.

The erstwhile seat of Prussian kings and the kaiser, and with an abundance of baroque architecture to match, its post-communist reconstruction has often been viewed as analogous with West German arrogance. Many rich blow-ins from the west bought up its historic villas and other buildings, many of which the East German regime had neglected. At the same time, they supported the demolition of Soviet-era architecture, from high-rise housing to college buildings, which they considered ugly and soulless.

Plattner, a co-founder of the software company SAP, who lives in a classical villa designed by Mies van der Rohe that housed Winston Churchill during the post-war Potsdam Conference in 1945, has long fought criticism he is one of the *besser-wessis* - a play on "know-it-all" and "westerner" - who have fuelled soaring house prices.

Local opposition to restoring the Minsk by some - who said it was an unwanted expression of delayed *ostaghe*, or nostalgia, for the East - softened after recognition that Potsdam's post-communist train station and leisure centre were arguably far uglier than anything the socialist era had served up.

In Rutsch's documentary the Minsk's architect, Karl-Heinz Birkholz, talked of how painful he had found the neglect of his building. Giving the revamped version his blessing, he said: "She's getting her time again."



▲ The Minsk in 1980. It is now hailed as a showpiece of East German design



# Financial

## Pensions Regulator called into crisis talks on calming market turmoil

**Kalyeena Makortoff**  
Banking correspondent

The Pensions Regulator has for the first time been drafted into high-level emergency talks led by the Treasury and Bank of England as they examine measures to calm financial markets in the wake of the meltdown following Kwasi Kwarteng's mini-budget.

The watchdog, which oversees the £1.5tn pension sector, is understood to have been summoned into closed-door meetings of the Authorities' Response Framework (ARF), which are triggered when an "incident or threat" could cause major disruption to financial services in the UK.

Officials will now consider how to further respond to the meltdown that followed the chancellor's speech and forced the Bank to intervene with a £65bn bond-buying programme in order to avoid a pensions crisis.

The secretive ARF was established in response to the 2007-08 financial crisis. It is meant to be a forum for top Treasury officials and key City regulators – the Bank and the Financial Conduct Authority – to address threats to financial stability.

It is understood this is the first time the Pensions Regulator – led by the industry veteran Charles Counsell – has taken part, highlighting the scale of the crisis.

Experts said options likely to be considered by the forum included the creation of a "back-stop fund" – controlled by the Bank to cover larger-than-expected collateral calls. A ban on the use of risky financial products, which have been blamed

for magnifying last week's crisis, is also being examined.

Those products, known as liability-driven investments (LDIs), have been widely used by mostly final-salary pension funds managing more than £1.5tn in savings to help hedge against swings in investment values.

However, a plunge in the pound and a collapse in UK bond prices triggered calls on fund managers to provide more collateral on those complex contracts, meaning they had to sell assets at short notice.

But those fire sales further depressed prices, causing more volatility in the value of their assets. That, in turn, triggered larger collateral calls, sparking a much-feared "doom loop".

Con Keating, chair of the bond commission of the European Federation of Financial Analysts Societies, said the most effective way to avoid a similar crisis would be to ban the use of LDI strategies altogether.

"There are many possible 'solutions', but the only one that will work involves ensuring that schemes cannot indulge in the practices that led us to this," he said.

Keating said the Pensions Regulator itself should also be questioned over why it allowed the use of these hedging contracts, adding he was concerned the regulator would advise against a ban on LDIs, in order to avoid tarnishing its reputation.

The Bank and the Treasury declined to comment. A spokesperson for the Pensions Regulator declined to comment on the meetings but said it was "monitoring the situation in the financial markets closely".

### Bank follows the crowd NatWest raises mortgage rates

The government-backed lender NatWest has become the last big bank to raise interest rates on its mortgage products after last week's market turmoil, dashing homeowners' hopes of securing loans with rates lower than 4%.

NatWest issued a notice to brokers yesterday, saying it was increasing rates on a swathe of mortgages following a surge in demand. Most of its rates, which previously hovered around 3-4%, will rise to between 4% and 6% from Monday, bringing it in line with its competitors.

It is understood that the bank had been struggling to keep up with applications after rivals suspended mortgage lending last week. The market turbulence – sparked by concern about the government's mini-budget – made it difficult for banks to price home loans accurately. By Thursday, 40% of mortgage products had been pulled from the market.

A NatWest spokesperson said the bank kept all of its products "under continual review in line with market conditions".  
**Kalyeena Makortoff**



## Sanctions Luxury properties linked to Russian oligarchs 'still not frozen'

**Jasper Jolly**

**T**he UK government's ability to investigate the true ownership of properties has come into question after researchers found £700m-worth of homes previously linked to sanctioned oligarchs are not flagged for asset freezes.

The campaign group Transparency International UK has identified 33 houses, flats and office blocks in London and Surrey that are not marked as restricted on the UK property register, which it said have been publicly linked to sanctioned individuals, raising

questions about whether they should have been flagged.

The properties in question include Witanhurst, a £50m house in Highgate said to be London's second biggest home after Buckingham Palace, and other valuable homes previously linked to the former Chelsea football club owner Roman Abramovich and the billionaire Oleg Deripaska.

Three are owned directly by people with names matching those designated for sanctions. A £31m home in Holland Park has an owner listed as Vladimir Yevtushenkov, the largest shareholder in the Russian IT business Sistema, and two flats in exclusive parts of Hampstead and Westminster have Yuri Soloviev, an influential

banker, listed as an owner. Soloviev was the chairman of the board of VTB, a bank with alleged close links to Russia's government, although the bank has since reportedly said he left the board on the day the invasion of Ukraine started. Soloviev and VTB did not respond to requests to comment. Yevtushenkov and Sistema declined to comment.

Oligarchs hit by sanctions are banned by law from selling property without explicit permission under an asset freeze that permits transactions only for the necessities to live, such as utility bills and food. Restriction notices on the Land Registry's titles alert potential buyers, estate agents and lawyers that a property can be





▲ Hamstone House in Surrey has been linked to the billionaire Oleg Deripaska

▲ A house in Kensington Palace Gardens that has been associated with Abramovich



Roman Abramovich's UK assets were frozen in March this year

sold only with explicit permission from the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI).

There are 106 properties subject to sanctions restrictions, 92 of which have been added since Russia launched its invasion on 24 February, the Land Registry said.

Britain has used financial retaliation as one of its main responses to the invasion of Ukraine by Vladimir Putin's regime. The government said it hoped to impose a "large and lasting cost on Putin and those close to him".

The findings by Transparency International will raise questions about the impact of financial sanctions. Many of those not marked as restricted are owned by opaque shell companies, but have been linked in previous reports to oligarchs, according to leaked documents. These include:

● A £90m home in Kensington Palace Gardens which has been repeatedly reported as belonging to Abramovich. The Land Registry lists the owner as A Corp Trustee Ltd, a Cyprus company

that gave a company at Chelsea's stadium as its service address.

● Hamstone House, a £7m Surrey art deco mansion in the gated St George's Hill estate that has been linked to Deripaska. The property is owned via Cyprus-incorporated Edenfield Investments.

● Witanhurst, reportedly linked via a series of companies to the chemicals magnate Andrey Guryev. The property is owned via Boradge Ltd, incorporated in the British Virgin Islands.

Deripaska denied owning Hamstone House when approached by the Guardian. His spokesperson denied he was linked to Putin and said the property belonged to a relative. Guryev's London-based lawyers said: "Mr Guryev does not own Witanhurst," without providing further details. Abramovich did not respond to a request for comment.

The research highlights the continued role of offshore secrecy jurisdictions in obscuring the true owners of properties.

Financial transparency experts

say it is reasonable for authorities to examine properties controlled by family members or close associates of people designated for sanctions, as they may in some cases be held on behalf of another person.

UK government guidance says asset freezes can apply even if property is held in another person's name, if it is reasonable to believe that the designated person has control of it either directly or indirectly.

Margaret Hodge, a Labour MP who has campaigned to improve the UK's transparency laws, said: "These important findings demonstrate that there could be glaring gaps in our sanctions regime stemming from a total lack of transparency in much of our financial world, especially our property market."

A spokesperson for HM Land Registry said some properties would not be marked as restricted because there was not enough evidence of ownership, particularly if they were owned via anonymous trusts.

## Co-founder of Bulb plans to expand battery storage venture into Italy

Alex Lawson  
Energy correspondent

The co-founder of the collapsed energy supplier Bulb is planning to expand his loss-making battery storage venture into Europe as the energy crisis escalates.

Amit Gudka hopes to grow Field Energy, the business he set up after leaving Bulb in February 2021, on the continent as countries attempt to switch toward renewable power.

Field Energy finances, builds and operates battery storage sites in the UK, pumping renewable power into the grid. Battery storage systems charge up when there is high supply and low demand, and release power back to the grid during peak periods.

Gudka told the Guardian that the fledgling company had begun scouting for locations in Italy. He added: "The expectation is that there's going to be demand in the north – and a lot of renewables are being built in the south – so a good place for storage in quite a long grid will be the centre of the country."

He said the company was also interested in operating in Germany in future: "It is a large market with a huge amount of renewables."

Field's international ambitions come despite a relatively small footprint in the UK, where it has four battery storage facilities, including

a site in Newport acquired for £1m earlier this year.

Its first site, in Oldham, will become operational in the next few weeks, earning the company revenues for the first time.

Field, which is registered as Virmati Energy, and backed by high-profile investors, posted a pre-tax loss of £2.65m in the 15 months to 31 March 2022, in its first financial statements since it was set up in 2020.

Gudka's former venture Bulb has been in a government-handled administration since last November.

The cost of bailing out Bulb could top £4bn by next spring. Bulb had 1.7 million customers when it collapsed last year. It is the largest company to fail during the energy crisis, which has toppled more than 30 firms.

Gudka founded Bulb with Hayden Wood in 2015. They extracted £4m each in a 2018 fundraising, but had their holdings – once valued at more than £100m each – wiped out by the collapse. Wood stayed on during the administration, facing criticism over his £250,000 salary, and has now joined Giant Ventures as an adviser. The venture capital firm is an investor in Field.

Gudka declined to comment on events after his departure from Bulb.

In the accounts, Virmati's directors said rising prices of lithium and increased shipping costs had hit construction costs, but Gudka said conditions had improved since the start of the year.

Field raised £77m of fresh funding in June to finance its build of renewable energy infrastructure, including a £47m debt facility from Triple Point Energy Efficiency Infrastructure. It received £30m of investment from investment platform Plural.

Field hopes to have 1.3-gigawatt hours of UK battery storage operational by 2024.

## Fears of global debt crisis as rates soar for low-income countries

Larry Elliott  
Economics editor

Fears of a deepening global debt crisis have been highlighted by research showing that low-income countries are paying rocketing interest on their foreign borrowing.

Analysis by the campaign group Debt Justice found that while interest rates had been rising for rich and poor countries since the start of 2022, increases had been severe for some of the most vulnerable nations.

With debt relief set to be high on the agenda at the annual meeting of the World Bank, which begins on 10 October, Debt Justice said interest rates had risen by an average of 5.7 percentage points for low-income countries, compared with a two-point increase in the US.

Many of the 27 countries that

provided data faced much higher than average interest rates, led by Ukraine, which has seen the cost of its new borrowing rise from 10.2% to 46% since the start of the year.

Ethiopia and Zambia have seen 25-point increases in their debt servicing costs, as measured by the yield – or interest rate – on their foreign currency bonds. Interest rates for two-thirds of the countries studied are now above 10%, intensifying debt problems and making it all but impossible to borrow from private lenders, the campaign group said.

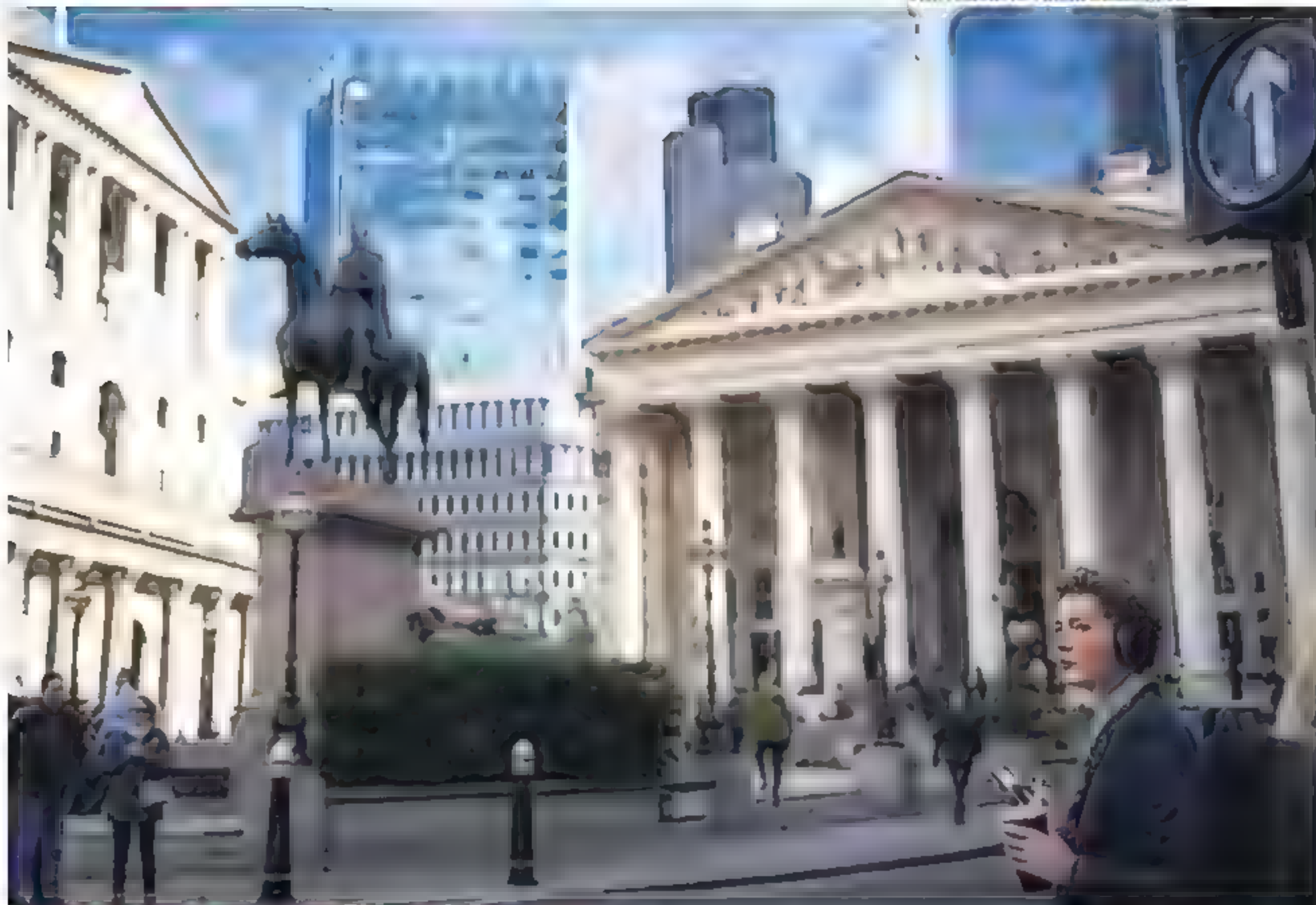
Heidi Chow, the executive director of Debt Justice, said: "Many countries were already cutting essential spending before rising interest rates made an alarming situation even worse."

"We urgently need mechanisms to quickly cancel debts for countries in need, especially high-interest loans from private lenders."



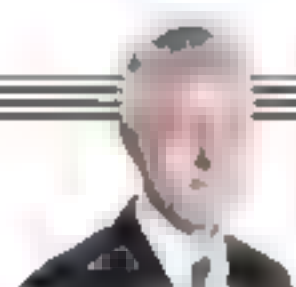
▼ The Bank of England was forced into an emergency programme of bond buying to save pension funds

PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY A. ABERNETHY



## All shook up Kwarteng's plan makes recession more likely

Larry Elliott



**L**iz Truss became prime minister promising to shake things up and she has certainly done that. In less than a month, the new government has sent interest rates soaring, crashed the pound, torpedoed the property market, made recession inevitable and left her party on course for a defeat of epic proportions at the next general election. Not bad for starters. The encore will have to be good to match the debut.

As the economist Mohamed El-Erian has noted, the mayhem since Kwasi Kwarteng's mini-budget was more typical of the

stuff that happens in developing countries than in rich, developed nations. A full-blown emerging-market-style crisis still looks a long way off because, unlike a troubled emerging market, the UK has its own currency and can in the last resort print pounds to cover its borrowing.

But the UK is running both a whopping trade deficit and a big (and growing) budget deficit, and relies on investors to finance them. Truss can dismiss criticism of her plans all she likes, but the fact remains last week's events have made the UK appear a much riskier place for those investors, who are now demanding higher interest rates to take a punt on the UK.

So while some stability had returned to currency markets by the end of last week, with

the pound nearing the levels it had been at before Kwarteng announced his tax changes, this has come at a cost. Bond yields – in effect the interest rate the government pays on its new borrowing – have risen sharply. “In effect the UK now has to offer much higher returns to global investors to sustain the same currency value that prevailed, with much lower rates, before the announcement,” says Krishna Guha of the investment banking advisory firm Evercore.

The government has tried to argue that the UK is not alone in facing higher interest rates or currency weakness. This is true, but that does not explain why briefly last week the pound reached a record low against the US dollar. Nor does it pass muster as

a reason why the Bank of England was forced into an emergency programme of bond buying to prevent a run on UK pension funds. These were the results of blunders made by Truss and Kwarteng.

Global interest rates have been rising all year, but this should have made the prime minister and chancellor more cautious about announcing a package of unfunded and unaudited tax cuts without squaring off the markets first. It was not as if Truss and Kwarteng had not been warned; they were but chose to ignore the advice of officials and outside experts. The decision to go ahead without any form of scrutiny from the Office for Budget Responsibility was especially reckless.

The upshot is that the mini-budget will have precisely the opposite results of those intended. Truss hit out at Treasury orthodoxy and abacus economics but now both are back with a vengeance. Whitehall departments have been told to make efficiency savings and the Treasury has made clear it has no intention of reopening last year's spending round, even though the settlements agreed now buy less owing to higher than expected inflation. It looks highly likely that state benefits will not be raised in line with inflation.

And if Truss had any thoughts of exerting more control over the Bank of England after its failure to prevent inflation reaching a 40-year high, those plans have now been abandoned after last week's Threadneedle Street pension fund rescue. “The government has managed to make the Bank of England look good, which is some achievement,” one leading economist says.

*The irony is that the first budget of a supposedly pro-growth government has made recession more, not less, likely*

The squeeze on public spending is one reason why Truss can kiss goodbye to hopes that her mix of tax cuts and supply-side reforms will boost growth in the months ahead. A more important factor will be higher interest rates.

On the day before Kwarteng's mini-budget, the Bank raised interest rates by half a percentage point to 2.25% – deciding against a bigger increase because it thought the UK was in recession. As it happens, an upward revision to growth in the second quarter means the economy is not actually in recession, but the respite is certain to be brief.

Huw Pill, the Bank's chief economist, has warned that “significant” increases in interest rates can be expected at the next meeting of the monetary policy committee, and financial markets currently expect official borrowing costs to keep on rising to 6%.

Make no mistake, if the Bank does push rates anywhere close to 6% it had better be prepared for a colossal recession. Already last week there were signs of trouble ahead from the mortgage market, where more than a thousand home loan products were pulled by lenders watching what was happening to bond yields and the expected path of official Bank rates.

Many home buyers have taken out mortgages at high multiples of their incomes in the belief permanently low interest rates will make them affordable. That assumption now lies in tatters, and floating-rate mortgage holders and those whose fixed-rate terms are coming to an end face huge increases in their monthly payments. The supply of new buyers will quickly dry up. House prices will fall.

The irony is that the first budget of a supposedly pro-growth government has made recession more, not less, likely. The government can introduce supply-side reforms in the months ahead, but if interest rates stay high to placate jittery investors the trend growth rate will be lower, not higher.

Britain's economic history is scattered with budgets that have quickly unravelled: Kwarteng's is in a class of its own.

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# Weather

## Monday 3 October 2022

### UK and Ireland Noon today

Sunny

Mist

Fog

Sunny intervals

Hazy

Mostly cloudy

Overcast/dull

Sunny showers

Sunny and heavy showers

Light showers

Rain

Sleet

Light snow

Snow showers

Heavy snow

Ice

Thundery rain

Thundery showers

Temperature, °C

Wind speed, mph

Windy

35C

30

25

20

15

10

5

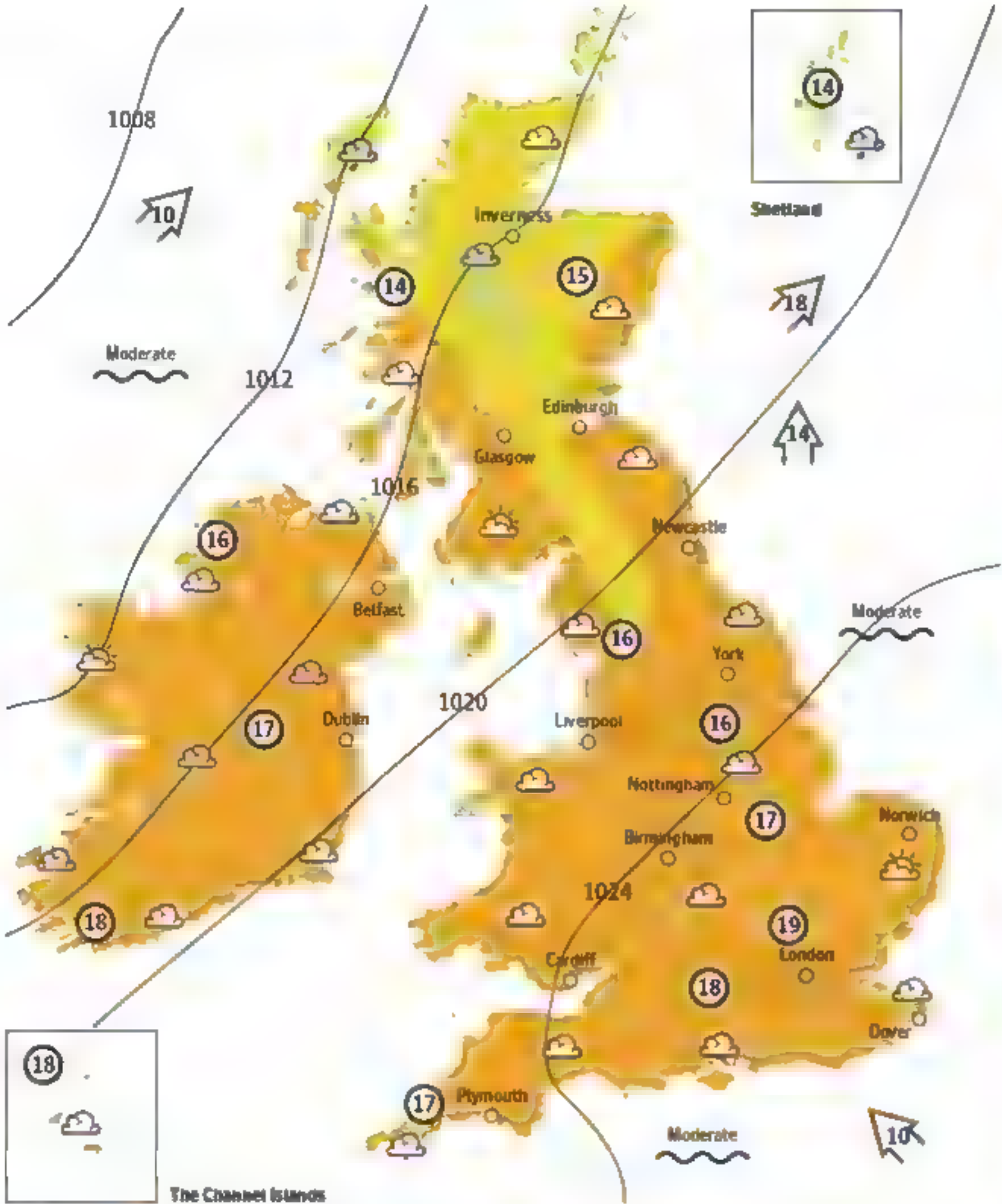
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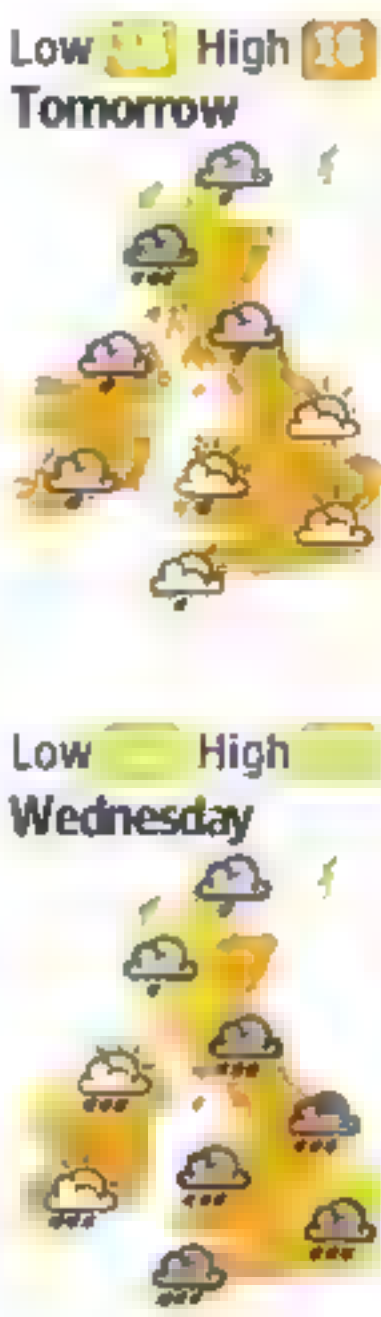
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-15

-20



### Forecast



### Carbon count

Daily atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):

Latest	
01 Oct 2022	415.90
Weekly average	
25 Sep 2022	415.57
02 Oct 2021	413.32
02 Oct 2012	391.07
Pre-industrial base	280
Safe level	350

Source: NOAA-ESRL

### Around the UK

London

Lows and highs

2

19

5%

Low

Manchester

2

16

5%

Low

Edinburgh

14

15

25%

Low

Belfast

13

16

70%

Low

Birmingham

2

17

5%

Low

Brighton

2

17

5%

Low

Bristol

2

17

5%

Low

Cardiff

13

17

5%

Low

Newcastle

2

15

25%

Low

Penzance

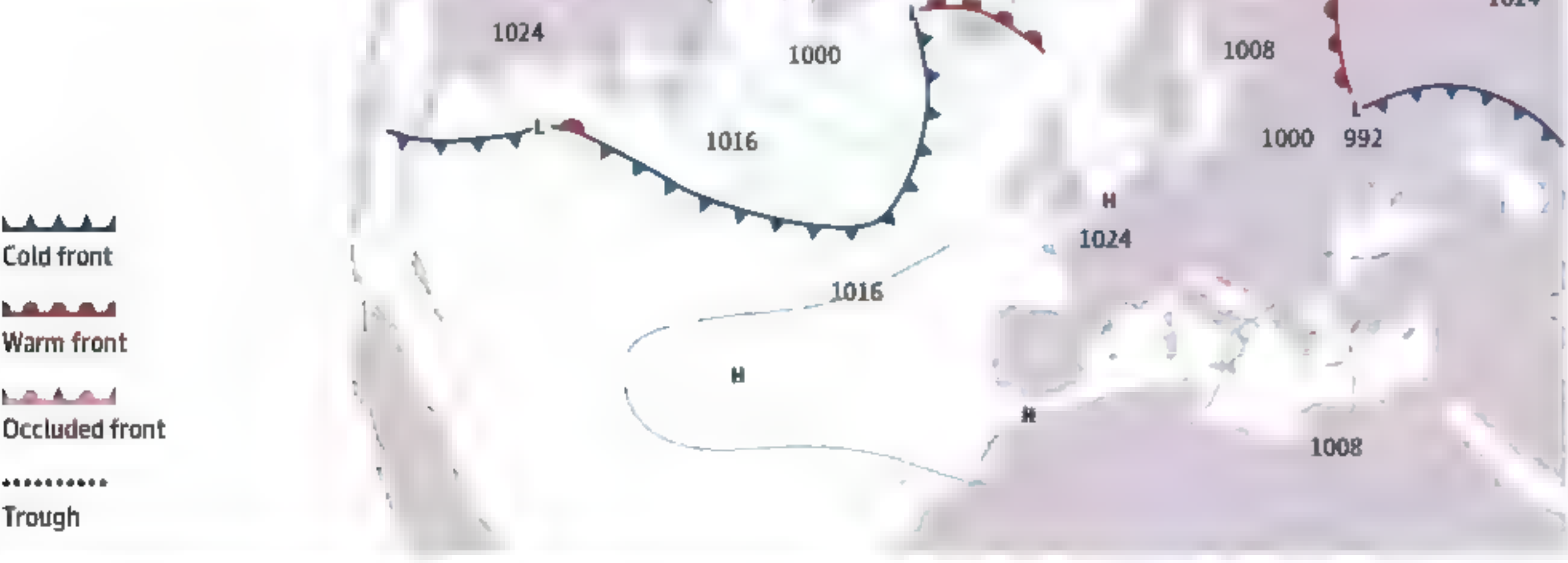
14

16

0%

Low

### Atlantic front



### High tides

Aberdeen	0729	3.7m	1957	3.5m
Avonmouth	0024	10.7m	1252	10.2m
Barrow	0507	7.6m	1740	7.4m
Belfast	0458	3.1m	1719	3.1m
Cobh	1121	3.4m	2355	3.3m
Cromer	--	--	1242	4.2m
Dover	0426	5.7m	1714	5.5m
Dublin	0535	3.5m	1802	3.5m
Galway	--	--	1120	4.1m
Greenock	0544	3.2m	1807	3.1m
Harwich	0508	3.4m	1738	3.4m
Holyhead	0402	4.7m	1640	4.7m
Hull	--	--	1216	6.1m
Leith	0836	4.7m	2105	4.6m
Liverpool	0439	7.8m	1722	7.6m
London Bridge	0713	5.9m	1949	6.2m
Lossiemouth	0541	3.5m	1807	3.3m
Milford Haven	--	--	1207	5.5m
Newquay	1103	5.6m	2349	5.4m
North Shields	0930	4.3m	2200	4.2m
Oban	--	--	1144	3.0m
Penzance	1033	4.6m	2314	4.3m
Plymouth	--	--	1132	4.6m
Portsmouth	0524	4.1m	1754	4.0m
Southport	0352	7.5m	1628	7.3m
Stornoway	0053	3.8m	1344	3.9m
Weymouth	--	--	1145	0.7m
Whitby	1001	4.7m	2231	4.6m
Wick	0512	2.9m	1736	2.9m
Workington	0506	6.9m	1745	6.7m

### Sun & Moon

Sun rises 0704  
Sun sets 1833  
Moon rises 1613  
Moon sets 2316  
Full Moon 9 Oct

AccuWeather.com  
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather ©2022

### Lighting up

Belfast	1856 to 0733
Birmingham	1840 to 0713
Brighton	1834 to 0706
Bristol	1844 to 0716
Carlisle	1842 to 0719
Cork	1907 to 0740
Dublin	1857 to 0732
Glasgow	1848 to 0726
Harlech	1849 to 0723
Inverness	1845 to 0726
London	1833 to 0705
Manchester	1841 to 0716
Newcastle	1838 to 0715
Norwich	1827 to 0701
Penzance	1856 to 0727

### Starwatch

The moon draws close to the shining planet of Jupiter this week, making a pretty pairing in the evening sky.

The chart shows the view looking south-south-east from London at 11pm on 8 October. The moon will be almost full. Officially the full moon takes place on 9 October, but to the eye it is going to look almost full until 12 October.

Jupiter shines brightly and is currently travelling against the backdrop of stars in the constellation of Pisces, the fish. Known as retrograde motion, it means that on successive nights, the planet will appear to have moved a little west. Jupiter began this backward motion on 28 July. Earth slipped between Jupiter and the sun on 26 September, effectively undertaking it. Jupiter will return to its normal eastward progress (prograde motion) from 23 November.

Stuart Clark @DrStuClark

### Around the world

Agers	30	Lisbon	27
Amsterdam	26	Madrid	27
Athens	26	Malaga	28
Auckland	30	Melbourne	28
Bangkok	30	Mexico City	30
Barcelona	42	Miami	30
Basra	42	Milan	28
Beijing	27	Mombasa	28
Berlin	27	Moscow	30
Bermuda	27	Mumbai	30
Brussels	32	New Orleans	30
Budapest	32	Nairobi	34
Copenhagen	33	New Delhi	34
Cairo	33	New York	14
Cape Town	26	Oslo	14
Chicago	26	Paris	14
Corfu	26	Perth	10
Dakar	27	Prague	10
Dhaka	30	Reykjavik	10
Dublin	30	Rio de Janeiro	26
Florence	26	Rome	26
Gibraltar	25	Shanghai	30
H Kong	32	Singapore	30
Harare	32	Stockholm	12
Helsinki	11	Strasbourg	12
Istanbul	32	Sydney	31
Jo'burg	32	Tel Aviv	31
K Lumpur	30	Tenerife	26
K Mandu	30	Tokyo	26
Kabul	30	Toronto	30
Kingston	30	Vancouver	13
Kolkata	27	Vienna	13
Lagos	30	Warsaw	13
Lima	30	Wellington	12
		Zurich	12



# Sport



## Football

### How Aubameyang could be the one to break No 9 curse

Page 39 →

## Rugby union

### Quins edge out Saints in thriller at sunny Stoop

Page 31 →



▲ The Eton v Harrow match is no longer a high-class sporting contest and fails to entice MCC members to attend  
ALEX DAVIDSON/GETTY IMAGES

## Fear of change MCC clutching its pearls over outdated Eton v Harrow and Varsity matches

Emma John



There's a classic Fry and Laurie sketch where two Test Match Special-style commentators work themselves into a state of ecstasy with their observations on pigeons, buses, mown grass and the like. "Creamy old England ... custard creams ... strawberries and cream!" they yelp, climactically. The comic pair always enjoyed satirising the nostalgic cult of Englishness; now Stephen Fry is about to become president of one of the most nostalgically English institutions in sport.

It's a smart appointment, not least because absurdist comedy is an excellent grounding for any role at Marylebone Cricket Club. Fry takes up his year-long position as president in the wake of a big week for MCC. First it had to weigh in with an official ruling on the Charlie Dean run-out that capped and, in some minds, ruined England's final ODI against India at Lord's. Then it temporarily reinstated the Eton v Harrow and Varsity matches, whose removal had Henry Blofeld threatening seppuku on his little red membership card.

All this made headlines because MCC, whose 18,000-strong membership exists largely as a cheap subscription to seats at Test matches, retains a legacy influence in the administration of the game. Also because there's nothing more schadenfreudean than the words "civil war at Lord's". The conciliatory event last Tuesday – when a potentially rancorous meeting and divisive vote was called off at the last minute through compromise on both sides – was inevitably reported as a humiliating U-turn. It was even said to be an embarrassment for Fry, who had no role in the proceedings and seems constitutionally unlikely to be embarrassed by any of this.

Outside the Grace and Heyhoe Flint Gates, the fuss

over whether to host a couple of historic fixtures merits little more than an eyeroll. Only at MCC, one of sport's most conservative institutions, do malcontents rebel not because they demand change but because they emphatically don't. Some have threatened to resign their membership which, given a 29-year waiting list, is unlikely to hurt the club and might actually move it in a more progressive direction.

Not that anyone will follow through on the threat. It would mean sacrificing a privilege, the very thing they're protesting against. After all, the matches under debate are nothing but privileges. Eton v Harrow and Oxford v Cambridge are no longer high-class sporting contests nor must-attend social events – as evidenced by the fact that MCC members themselves don't go to them and the teams play to an empty ground. The circular argument from the camp wishing to keep the games at Lord's is that they should be better promoted. Mate, if you can't be bothered to go yourself, don't think you're going to persuade anyone else.

Do four undeniably elitist academic establishments deserve their own special day at the sport's most high-profile and in-demand ground, for the sole reason they've always had one? That's the fundamental question here, which those in favour call "preserving history", and those against call a jolly good run of luck for the 44 people they involve.

Lord's doesn't host Gentlemen v Players any more. People don't grieve the loss. It remains a much-told part of the club's story. No one is vandalising history because they're comfortable with the suggestion that two moribund fixtures find a new home – smaller grounds would infuse them with more atmosphere and might even revive their popularity. It's not disrespectful to the heritage of the most famous cricket pitch in the world to increase chances to play on it.

The proposal is for the Eton v Harrow and Oxbridge matches to be replaced by the finals of two new school and university competitions, incentivising and ultimately rewarding the best young players in the country. Even the over-my-dead-body traditionalists, championing matches they don't go to, don't challenge the merit or intent of that idea.

They focus instead on scholastic arguments about how many playing days can be accommodated on the Lord's square, and complain – this isn't a joke, by the way, but actually part of their submission – that there were many more matches in 1962. The calendar 60 years ago is utterly irrelevant today, given that it involved the preparation of far fewer – and worse quality – wickets.

But then they know that, because they're cricket lovers. This is a symbolic protest, a proxy battle, a howl of frustration at a world that's changing too quickly. MCC has form at fighting last century's battles; it took three separate attempts to secure female membership, and that wasn't till the 1990s, for God's sake. The club has got it wrong on justice and equality so many times in its long existence, maybe this pearl-clutching reaction is indeed another way of preserving history.

What's crazy is that MCC requires a purpose. Ever since it ceased to be cricket's mover, shaker, and ultimate authority, it has needed justification for its oversized influence. Being a repository of the past, or the landlord of the most famous ground, isn't enough.

Many members are rightly proud of its pioneering experiments, the fact that it can use its exceptional independent wealth and connections to improve and grow the game. If the club wants to continue to play the part it believes it should, then it must demonstrate leadership – and leadership for the game as it is today, not as it was 200 years ago.

No wave of resignations followed the vote for women, incidentally. Most men in the Long Room now consider it a point of pride to have a co-ed club. Plenty of new traditions that benefit patrons have been embraced, not least an entire second Test match a year. MCC, which has nurtured cricket for centuries, is full of people who love the game obsessively. Which of them shouldn't be proud of an action that increases cricket's relevance today – for everyone?



## Sport

## Racing

# 'Eccentric' Prescott has Arc victory to crown long career

**Greg Wood**  
Longchamp

With all due respect to Luke Morris, who was flawless aboard Alpinista on his first ever ride in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, the toughest job here fell to the security team trying to usher Sir Mark Prescott, her trainer, from the winner's enclosure towards the post-race press conference. At every other step, well-wishers were extending hands, exchanging teary kisses and even stopping Newmarket's longest-serving trainer for selfies, as they shared the general delight at one of the most popular big-race successes for years.

Prescott, who is 74, took over the licence at the historic, 50-box Heath House stables in Newmarket, where horses have been trained since the 17th century, in 1970. At the time, he was the youngest trainer in Britain. In the 53 seasons since, he has landed Group Ones and gaff-track gambles, shown famous loyalty to his relative handful of stable jockeys and turned into both a historian and the elder statesman of Flat racing's famous HQ.

"Eccentric" and "old-school" are two descriptions that follow Prescott around, in much the same way that a cloud of smoke was ever-present until he quit his 10-a-day Cuban cigar habit a few years ago. His enthusiasm for blood sports, which dates back to a visit to Pamplona for the bull run in his teens, could be a sticking-point for some, but he is, essentially, a complete one-off, and a tonic in an age when huge stables dominate international Flat racing.

Vadeni, with the soon-to-be-banned Christophe Soumillon in the saddle, and Torquator Tasso, last year's shock winner, were closing in on Alpinista in the final strides and her eventual winning margin was just half a length. The race was in effect over, however, from the moment that

the gun-metal grey sauntered into the lead a furlong and a half out, with Morris motionless in her saddle.

"I always thought that the best day of my racing life was when I rode a winner on my first ride at 15 or 16," Prescott said. "It had no chance of winning, and it won. I had a girlfriend and we walked out down the track, and there was an old man banging in divots and he said: 'What won the first?' And I said: 'I did,' and I thought it was the best moment of my life, but this is every bit as good."

"I think she's improved with every single run in the last two years. Whether she can go on more, I don't know, but she's been faultless for two years, and the jockey's been faultless for two years. This is her best race but every single one of the last seven has been better than the one before, so it's been a marvellous journey."

Prescott has trained several generations of Alpinista's family for Kirsten Rausing, her owner, including Albanova, her grand-dam, a three-time Group One winner, and his famous reluctance to travel too far from his Newmarket home may yet be tested again this season before Alpinista retires to the breeding sheds.

"We need to think a bit and discuss," Rausing said, before suggesting the Japan Cup and Breeders' Cup Turf as possible targets for her much-coveted first winner of the Arc.

Prescott, who travelled to Japan with Albanova's full sister, Alborada, in 1999, only for the mare to go lame before the race, would be keen for another go – "I'm sure Miss Rausing's eagle eye will have observed, but she gets a \$3m bonus if she's lucky enough to win the Japan Cup," he pointed out, while patting his wallet – but immediate retirement probably remains the most likely option.

For Prescott and Morris, meanwhile, it will be back to the Newmarket routine this morning, and so too for William Butler, the trainer's assistant for nearly 20 years, whose accession to the top job is now likely to be delayed once again.

"I haven't won an English Classic, I'm very ashamed of it, but I'm very proud of having won the Prix de Diane [French Oaks] and even more proud of having won today," Prescott said.

"I've trained for Miss Rausing for 36 years and Luke's been with me 11 years. It's hard to imagine a better day if you're a trainer. I think poor William will view this with mixed emotions. It will probably keep me tottering on a bit longer. He's worked so hard, but it's probably bad news for him."

## Acrobatic finishing touch for Quins

Cadan Murley dives over to help Harlequins prevail in a high-scoring contest

ASHLEY WESTERN/  
COLORSPORT/  
SHUTTERSTOCK



## Rugby union

# Musk double propels Harlequins to victory

Harlequins	35
Northampton	29

**Robert Kitson**  
Twickenham Stoop

There was never much chance of a dull, try-less slugging match between two sides fully committed to playing their rugby on the front foot. Sure enough the result was another wildly fluctuating try-fest, with Harlequins surviving a concerted final-quarter comeback from a Northampton team who registered four tries but could conceivably have scored twice as many.

Quins, who have now scored 20 tries in their four league games so far, had been leading 35-15 with 12 minutes left with the hooker Jack Musk contributing two tries and the centre Luke Northmore impressing once again. Last-quarter tries from George Furbank and Tom James, however, propelled the Saints right back into the game and only a desperate late turnover saved the hosts from last-gasp embarrassment.

It made for a nine-try thriller on a lovely sunny afternoon but a few Saints players will not be in any huge rush to check out the highlights. Alex Coles, Alex Mitchell, Rory Hutchinson and Lewis Ludlam could all have scored or set up vital tries for the visitors which, in the final analysis, proved crucial.

Even so it would have been mighty tough on Quins, having lost out in the final seconds in Exeter the previous weekend, had they been pipped again. "At times you wonder: 'Why

am I in this industry?'" admitted their head coach, Tabai Matson. "I've actually thought of getting an Apple watch to see what my heart rate is. It's a pretty brutal industry and winning and losing has an impact on you as a coach. But this club is adamant that playing an exciting game of football can be successful. It's fantastic to coach and the players love the challenge of moving the ball."

At least Matson can sleep more easily this week. It is usually Quins who specialise in unlikely comebacks but here they were 14-0 up inside seven minutes, courtesy of tries by Musk and Lennox Anyanwu and Northampton's early inability to hang on to the ball. Three or four times in the first half alone the Saints made it into the home 22 only to spill possession when opportunity knocked, not least when Mitchell delayed too long with options outside him.

Quins needed no second invitation. They also have one of the form backs in the competition in Northmore and the uncapped centre showed up well again on his 50th club appearance as he kept the defence guessing with the ball in both hands before carving through to score his side's third try.

A penalty from Dan Biggar and a close-range try from Ludlam did drag Saints back into the contest but their profligacy continued to cost them. Most glaring was Hutchinson's decision to ignore the man outside him on the left and go for glory, only for the Scotland international to be bundled into touch by Archie White and Tyrone Green.

It left Saints needing to overcome a 21-10 half-time deficit, a task made no easier when their big lock Lukhan Salakaia-Loto was shown a yellow

card following a collision with Will Evans. The referee, Tom Foley, had initially decided no card was necessary, only to be alerted to the existence of a further video angle.

Northampton have now been shown six yellow cards in four games, making them the worst early offenders in the league, and paid the price again here when Musk was driven over for his second try eight minutes into the second half. They were suitably relieved, then, when slick passing put the increasingly prolific Tommy Freeman over, the eighth league game in a row in which he has scored a try.

Things would have become even more interesting had Coles, just a few metres short, not allowed the ball to slip from his grasp or Ludlam not had a close-range 'try' ruled out by the eagle-eyed TMO for a double movement. The latter moment led in effect to a 14-point swing with Quins surging back upfield, taking a quick tap and putting the acrobatic Cadan Murley over in the left corner. Saints, to their credit, battled back well but, as their director of rugby, Phil Dowson, acknowledged, their sluggish start had already left them with "a mountain to climb".

Quins, meanwhile, were also happy to attract a full house, with their forthcoming home games against London Irish and Leicester already sold out as well. Given the rival sporting attractions on offer it would strongly suggest a healthy market does indeed exist for well-marketed, family-friendly club rugby. Entertaining games like this one do no harm, either.

**Harlequins**  
Green, Marchant, Northmore (David 60), Anyanwu, Murley, Smith, Care (Gjaltema 66), Marler (capt; Garcia Botta 74), Musk (Riley 60), Louw (Kerrod 58), Lamb, Herbst, Kenningham, Evans, White (Jurevicius 65)  
Tries Musk 2, Anyanwu, Northmore, Murley  
Cons Smith 5

**Northampton**  
Furbank, Freeman, Dingwall, Hutchinson (Proctor 54), Collins (O'Sleightholme 54), Biggar, Mitchell (James 68), Iyogun, Matavesi (Hayward 66) Petch (Hill 58), Salakaia-Loto, Coles, Scott-Young (Moon 44), Ludlam (capt; Graham 66), Augustus  
Tries Ludlam, Freeman, Furbank, James  
Cons Biggar 3, Pen Biggar  
Sin-bin Salakaia-Loto (44)

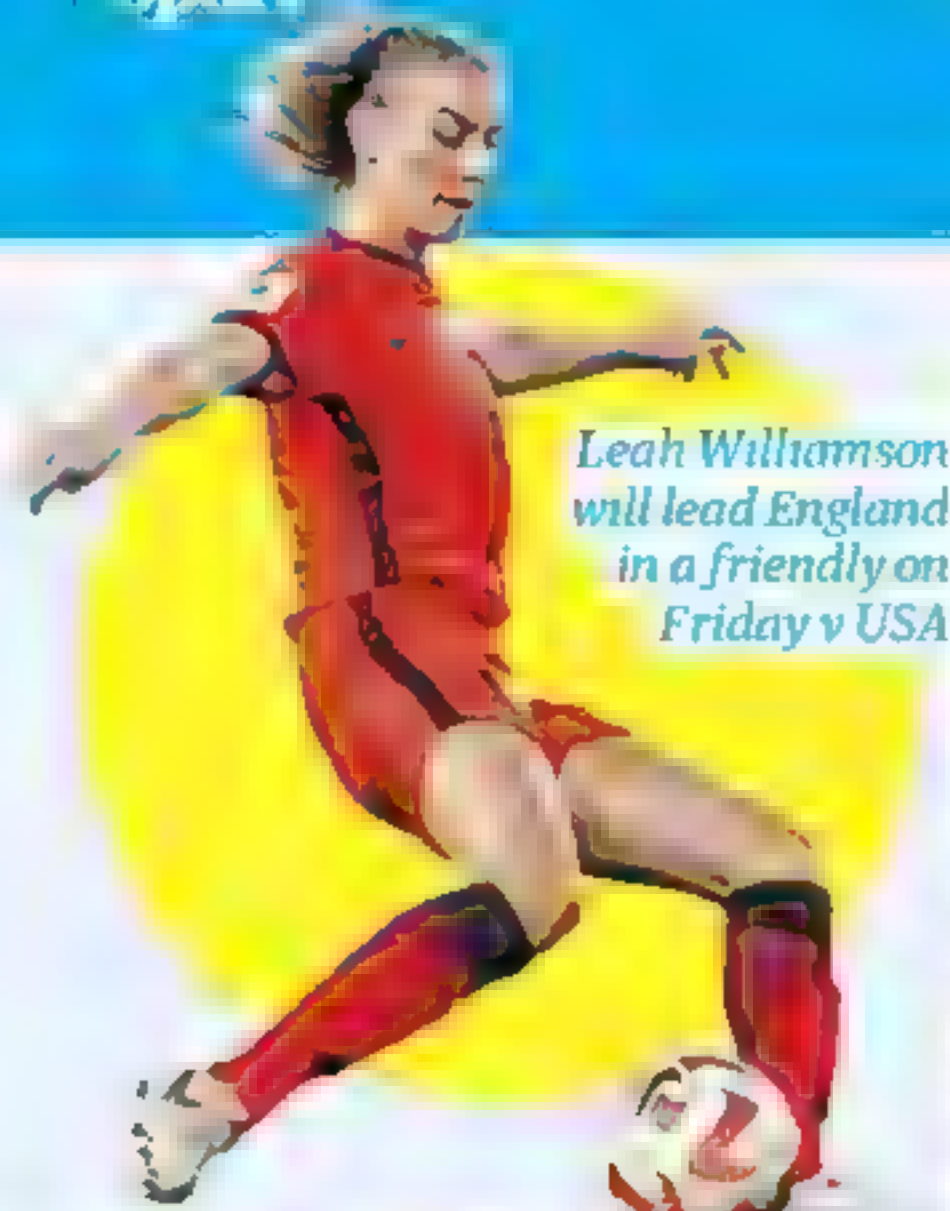
Referee Tom Foley Attendance 14,500



▲ Luke Morris and Alpinista hold off the late challengers to win the Arc  
STEVEN CARGILL/RACINGPHOTOS.COM/SHUTTERSTOCK



# The week ahead



Leah Williamson will lead England in a friendly on Friday v USA

## Today

**Football**  
Premier League  
Leicester v Nottingham Forest (8pm) SSPFL  
**Tennis**  
ATP Astana Open  
Kazakhstan (to Sun) Amazon Prime  
ATP Japan Open Championship  
Tokyo (to Sun) Amazon Prime  
WTA J&T Banka Ostrava Open  
Czech Republic (to Sun) Amazon Prime  
WTA Jasmin Open Tunisia  
Monastir (to Sun) Amazon Prime  
**Racing**  
Ponterfract, Stratford, Windsor, Wolverhampton

## Tomorrow

**Football** (7.45pm unless stated)  
Uefa Champions League  
Group A Ajax v Napoli (8pm) BT Sport 5; Liverpool v Rangers (8pm) BT Sport 2; Group B Club Brugge v Atlético Madrid (8pm) BT Sport 6; Porto v Bayer Leverkusen (8pm) BT Sport 7; Group C Bayern Munich v Pilsen (5.45pm) BT Sport 4; Internazionale v Barcelona (8pm) BT Sport 4; Group D Eintracht Frankfurt v Tottenham (8pm) BT Sport 3; Marseille v Sporting (5.45pm) BT Sport 1  
**Sky Bet Championship**  
Bristol City v Coventry Sky Sports Red Button; Cardiff v Blackburn (8pm) Sky Sports Main Event/Sky Sports Football; Luton v Huddersfield Sky Sports RB; Reading v Norwich (8pm) Sky Sports Arena; Sheffield Utd v QPR Sky Sports RB; Sunderland v Blackpool Sky Sports RB  
**Sky Bet League One**  
Burton Albion v Fleetwood Town; Cheltenham v Bolton; Ipswich v Cambridge Utd; Plymouth v Sheffield Wednesday  
**Sky Bet League Two**  
Hartlepool v Doncaster; Stevenage v Sutton Utd; Swindon v Newport County; Walsall v Northampton  
**cinch Scottish Premiership**  
Ross County v Motherwell  
**cinch Scottish Championship**  
Cove Rangers v Dundee; Queen's Park v Morton  
**cinch Scottish League One**  
Montrose v Airdrieonians  
**Cricket**  
T20 Twenty20 International  
India v South Africa, Indore (2.30pm)  
**Racing**  
Brighton, Huntingdon, Leicester, Southwell

## Wednesday

**Football** (7.45pm unless stated)  
Uefa Champions League  
Group E Chelsea v Milan (8pm) BT Sport 2; Real Salt Lake v Dinamo Zagreb (5.45pm) BT Sport 1; Group F RB Leipzig v Celtic (5.45pm) BT Sport 4; Real Madrid v Shakhtar Donetsk (8pm) BT Sport 6; Group G Man City v FC Copenhagen (8pm) BT Sport 3; Sevilla v Borussia Dortmund (8pm) BT Sport 7; Group H Benfica v PSG (8pm) BT Sport 4; Juventus v Maccahi Haifa (8pm) BT Sport 8  
**Sky Bet Championship** (all SSPFL)  
Burnley v Stoke; Hull v Wigan; Middlesbrough v Birmingham; Preston v West Brom (8pm) Sky Sports Football; Rotherham v Millwall; Watford v Swansea  
**cinch Scottish Premiership**  
Kilmarnock v St Johnstone  
**cinch Scottish League One**  
FC Edinburgh v Peterhead

## The main event

### Arsenal v Liverpool

Sunday 4.30pm, Sky Sports PL

Arsenal, managed by Mikel Arteta, have set the early pace in the title race while Liverpool have looked short of form



## Football results

### Premier League

		Home					Away					GD	Pts	Form
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A			
1 Arsenal	8	4	0	0	11	5	3	0	1	9	3	+12	21	WWWW
2 Manchester City	8	4	0	0	20	5	2	2	0	9	4	+20	20	DWWDWW
3 Tottenham	8	4	0	0	13	4	1	2	1	6	6	+9	17	WWDDWW
4 Brighton	7	2	1	0	6	2	2	1	1	8	6	+6	14	DWWLWD
5 Chelsea	7	2	1	0	6	4	2	0	2	4	6	0	13	DLWLWW
6 Manchester Utd	7	2	0	1	6	4	2	0	2	5	10	-3	12	LWWWLW
7 Newcastle	8	1	3	0	6	4	1	2	1	6	4	+4	11	DDLDWW
8 Fulham	8	2	1	1	8	9	1	1	2	5	6	-2	11	WLWLWL
9 Liverpool	7	2	2	0	15	5	0	2	1	3	4	+9	10	DLWWDD
10 Brentford	8	2	1	1	10	6	0	3	1	5	6	+3	10	LDDWL D
11 Everton	8	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	5	5	0	10	DDDDWW
12 Leeds	7	2	2	0	6	2	0	1	2	4	8	0	9	DWL D L D
13 Bournemouth	8	1	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	4	16	-13	9	LDDWDD
14 Aston Villa	8	2	1	1	4	3	0	1	3	2	7	-4	8	L L L D W D
15 West Ham	8	1	1	2	3	5	1	0	3	2	4	-4	7	L W D L L W
16 Southampton	8	1	1	2	5	6	1	0	3	3	7	-5	7	WLWL L L
17 Crystal Palace	7	1	1	2	5	6	0	2	1	3	5	-3	6	DWL D D L
18 Wolves	8	1	2	1	2	4	0	1	3	1	5	-6	6	LDDW L L
19 Nottingham Forest	7	1	0	3	5	8	0	1	2	1	9	-11	4	W D L L L L
20 Leicester	7	0	1	2	3	5	0	0	4	7	17	-12	1	L L L L L L

### Scotland

CINCH PREMIERSHIP										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
Celtic	8	7	0	1	27	4	+23	21		
Rangers	8	6	1	1	20	8	+12	19		
St Mirren	8	5	0	3	10	9	+1	15		
Hibernian	8	4	2	2	11	7	+4	14		
Aberdeen	8	4	1	3	18	11	+7	13		
Hearts	8	4	1	3	13	12	+1	13		
Livingston	8	4	0	4	7	11	-4	12		
St Johnstone	8	3	1	4	9	11	-2	10		
Motherwell	8	3	1	4	8	11	-3	10		
Ross County	8	1	2	5	4	13	-9	5		
Kilmarnock	8	1	1	6	4	16	-12	4		
Dundee Utd	8	0	2	6	4	22	-18	2		
Aberdeen	(3) 4	Kilmarnock	(1) 1							
Besulien 22		Taylor 27								
Milovski 24		16,348								
Stewart 63										
Celtic	(1) 2	Motherwell	(1) 1							
Furushashi 15		Juranovich 36og								
Hatake 64		58,407								
Dundee Utd	(0) 1	St Johnstone	(2) 2							
Watt 82		May 15								
7,977		Halberg 39								
Hearts	(0) 0	Rangers	(2) 4							
18,433		Cotak 6 30, Morelos 76								
Ross County	(0) 0	Kent 90								
4,243		Porteous 46								
		Boyle 80								

### Other football

WOMEN'S CONTINENTAL LEAGUE CUP			
Group A			
Durham	(2) 3	Sheffield Utd	(1) 3
Hardy 7		Walters 43 64	
Hepple 17 71pen		Rayner 78	
(Durham won 5-3 on pens)			
(played on Friday)			
Aston Villa	(0) 1	Manchester Utd	(1) 1
Daly 72		Parris 16	
(Aston Villa won 4-3 on pens)			
Group B			
Blackburn	(0) 0	Leicester	(1) 3
		Smith 6, Schofield 49	
		Whelan 65	
Sunderland	(0) 0	Liverpool	(1) 1
		Campbell 23	
Group C			
Birmingham	(1) 3	Brighton	(0) 2
Smith 25, Pennock 53		Lee 59	
Quinn 62		Carter 89pen	
London City	(1) 2	West Ham	(0) 2
Heuchan 26		Asseyi 67	
Ewens 62		Brynarsdottir 90	
(West Ham won 10-9 on pens)			
Group D			
Bristol City	(2) 4	Crystal Palace	(0) 0
Harrison 9 25			
Mustaki 78, Syme 84			
Lewes	(1) 2	Charlton	(0) 0
Howells 44, Hack 90			
Group E			
Coventry Utd	(0) 2	Southampton	(0) 0
Dudley Jones 50			
Wiseman 55			
Reading	(0) 1	Tottenham	(2) 2
Dowie 90pen		Neville 7, Karczewska 30	
EMIRATES FA CUP			
Third qualifying round Alvechurch 4 Nuneaton Borough 0;			
Anstey Nomads 5 Shefford Town & Campton 0; Bamber			
Bridge 0 Buxton 3, Banbury Utd 2 Berkhamsted 0; Basford			
Utd 1 Boston Utd 1, Bath City 0 Sevenscale Town 1;			

Arsenal	(1) 3	Tottenham	(1) 1
Parley 20, Jesus 49		Kane 31pen	
Khaka 67		60,278	
Bournemouth	(0) 0	Brentford	(0) 0
10,126			
Crystal Palace	(1) 1	Chelsea	(1) 2
Edouard 7		Aubameyang 38	
		Gallagher 90	
Fulham	(0) 1	Newcastle	(3) 4
Decordova-Reid 88		Wilson 11, Amirón 33 57	
22,913		S Longstaff 43	
Leeds	(0) 0	Aston Villa	(0) 0
36,582			
Liverpool	(1) 3	Brighton	(2) 3
Firm no 33 54		Trossard 4 17 83	
Webster 63og			
Manchester City	(4) 6	Manchester Utd	(0) 3
Foden 8 44 72		Antony 56	
Haaland 34 37 64		Martial 84 90pen	
Southampton	(0) 1	Everton	(0) 2
Aribo 49		Coady 52	
30,510		McNeil 54	
West Ham	(1) 2	Wolves	(0) 0
Scamacca 29			
Bowen 54			

### LEADING GOALSCORERS

17 Haaland (Manchester City); 7 Kane (Tottenham)

6 Foden (Manchester City); Mitrovic (Fulham);

5 Firmino (Liverpool); Jesus (Arsenal); Toney (Brentford);

Trossard (Brighton).

### CINCH LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Dumbarton	9	7	1	1	17	6	+11	22
Stirling Albion	9	5	2	2	18	10	+8	17
Stenhousemuir	9	5	1	3	17	16	+1	16
Stranraer	9	3	3	3	14	18	-4	12
East Fife	9	3	2	4	11	13	-2	11
Elgin	8	2	4	2	18	15	+3	10
Bonnyrigg Rose	8	3	1	4	10	11	-1	10
Forfar	9	2	2	5	9	13	-4	8
Annan Athletic	8	2	2	4	10	18	-8	8
Albion Rovers	8	1	2	5	7	11	-4	5

### HIGHLAND LEAGUE

Buckie Thistle 7; Thurff Utd 1; Deveronvale 4; Keith 3;

Forres Mechanics 4; Rothes 3; Huntly 1; Strathspey Thistle 0;

Inverurie Locos 0; Brechin 1; Nairn County P Wick Academy P.

Leading standings: 1 Brechin P8 Pts24,

2 Buckie Thistle 8-21, 3 Brora 8-19.

### LOWLAND LEAGUE

Berwick 2; Boness Utd 2; Caledonian Braves 2; East Kilbride 2;

Cowdenbeath 5; East Stirlingshire 0; Cumbernauld Colts 1;

Stirling University 3; Edinburgh University 1; Broomhill 4;

Gala Fairydean 3; Celtic 8 4; Gretna 2; Tranent 1;

Hearts 8 2; Rangers 8 3; Spartans 6; Dalbeattie Star 0.

Leading standings: 1 East Kilbride P13 Pts29,

2 Rangers 8 10-25, 3 Broomhill 12-25

### LIGUE 1

Ajaccio 1; Clermont 3; Auxerre 1; Brest 1; Lens 1; Lyon 0;

Lorient 2; Lille 1; Monaco 4; Nantes 1; Paris St-Germain 2;

Nice 1; Strasbourg 1; Rennes 3; Toulouse 4; Montpellier 2;

Troyes 2; Reims 2; Friday Angers 0; Marseille 3;

Leading standings: 1 Paris St-Germain P9 Pts25,

2 Marseille 9-23, 3 Lorient 9-22

### BUNDESLIGA

Cologne 3; Borussia Dortmund 2; Eintracht Frankfurt 2;

Union Berlin 0; Freiburg 2; Mainz 1; Hertha Berlin 1;

Hoffenheim 1; RB Leipzig 4; Bochum 0; Schalke 2; Augsburg 3;

Werder Bremen 5; Borussia M'gladbach 1; Wolfsburg 3;

VfB Stuttgart 2; Friday Bayern Munich 4; Bayer Leverkusen 0.

Leading standings: 1 Union Berlin P8 Pts17,

2 Freiburg 8-17, 3 Bayern Munich 8-15.

### SERIE A

Atalanta 1; Fiorentina 0; Empoli 1; Milan 3;

Internazionale 1; Roma 2; Juventus 3; Bologna 0;

Lazio 4; Spezia 0; Lecce 1; Cremonese 1; Napoli 3; Torino 1;

Sampdoria 0; Monza 3; Sassuolo 5; Salernitana 0.

Leading standings: 1 Napoli P8 Pts 20,

2 Atalanta 8-20, 3 Lazio 8-17

### EREDIVISIE

Ajax 1; Go Ahead Eagles 1; Cambuur 3; PSV Eindhoven 0;

Emmen 0; Heerenveen 0; Excelsior 0; Utrecht 1;

Fortuna Sittard 2; Volendam 0; Groningen 1; AZ Alkmaar 4;

NEC Nijmegen 1; Feyenoord 1; RKC Waalwijk

2; Sparta Rotterdam 2; Twente 3; Vitesse Arnhem 0

Leading standings: 1 AZ Alkmaar P8 Pts



## Sky Bet Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sheffield Utd	11	7	3	1	20	6	+14	24
Norwich	11	7	2	2	17	9	+8	23
Reading	11	7	0	4	13	15	-2	21
Burnley	11	4	6	1	18	11	+7	18
QPR	11	5	3	3	16	12	+4	18
Blackburn	11	6	0	5	13	14	-1	18
Watford	11	4	5	2	15	11	+4	17
Sunderland	11	4	4	3	16	11	+5	16
Luton	11	4	4	3	13	10	+3	16
Wigan	10	4	4	2	11	11	0	16
Swansea	11	4	3	4	13	14	-1	15
Rotherham	10	3	5	2	12	8	+4	14
Bristol City	11	4	2	5	20	18	+2	14
Preston	11	2	7	2	3	4	1	13
Birmingham	11	3	4	4	9	11	-2	13
Milton Keynes	11	4	1	6	12	16	-4	13
Stoke	11	3	3	5	11	15	-4	12
Cardiff	11	3	3	5	8	12	-4	12
Blackpool	11	3	2	6	10	16	-6	11
Hull	11	3	2	6	11	23	-12	11
West Brom	11	1	7	3	17	17	0	10
Middlesbrough	11	2	4	5	13	16	-3	10
Huddersfield	10	2	1	7	10	16	-6	7
Coventry	8	1	3	4	8	13	-5	6

Blackburn	(0) 2	Milton Keynes	(0) 1
Dolan 57		Cooper 75	
Brereton 64		12,164	
Blackpool	(0) 0	Norwich	(1) 1
11,594		Pukki 21	
Bristol City	(0) 1	QPR	(2) 2
Wellis 61		Johansen 19	
21,665		Roberts 22	
Cardiff	(0) 1	Burnley	(0) 1
Robinson 90		Tella 48	
18,508			
Coventry	(1) 1	Middlesbrough	(0) 0
Cyorkes 17		19,788	
Reading	(2) 3	Huddersfield	(0) 1
McIntyre 29		Lees 90	
Nicholls 36og, Melté 81		16,684	
Rotherham	(0) 0	Wigan	(1) 2
10,761		Keane 12, Naylor 84	
Sheffield Utd	(0) 1	Birmingham	(0) 1
McBurnie 64		Deeney 70	
29,927			
Stoke	(0) 0	Watford	(1) 4
19,905		Sarr 12, Sema 64	
Sunderland	(0) 0	Davies 78, Bayo 84	
41,825			
West Brom	(0) 2	Swansea	(1) 3
Livermore 48		Sorinola 6	
Diangana 65		Ntcham 71	
22,369		Okefemi 89	
(played on Friday)			
Hull	(0) 0	Luton	(2) 2
15,730		Jones 6og	
		Lansbury 44	

## LEADING GOALSCORERS

7 Conway (Bristol City), Estupinan (Hull), 6 Morris (Luton), Sargent (Norwich), Weils (Bristol City), 5 Brereton (Blackburn), Hogan (Birmingham), McBurnie (Sheffield Utd), Ndiaye (Sheffield Utd), Ogbene (Rotherham), Rodriguez (Burnley), Stewart (Sunderland), Willock (QPR).

## Sky Bet League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Plymouth	11	8	1	2	19	12	+7	25
Ipswich	11	7	3	1	22	10	+12	24
Sheffield Wed	11	7	2	2	21	10	+11	23
Portsmouth	10	6	3	1	21	11	+10	21
Barnsley	11	6	2	3	17	10	+7	20
Bolton	10	6	2	2	13	6	+7	20
Peterborough	11	6	0	5	20	12	+8	18
Derby	10	5	2	3	11	9	+2	17
Accrington Stanley	11	4	4	3	14	13	+1	16
Cambridge Utd	11	5	1	5	14	18	-4	16
Exeter	11	4	3	4	18	12	+6	15
Shrewsbury	11	4	3	4	11	13	-2	15
Lincoln City	10	3	4	3	14	16	-2	13
Charlton	11	2	6	3	15	15	0	12
Fleetwood	10	2	6	2	9	9	0	12
Port Vale	11	3	3	5	10	16	-6	12
Cheltenham	10	3	2	5	10	12	-2	11
Oxford Utd	10	3	2	5	9	11	-2	11
Wycombe	11	3	2	6	13	16	-3	11
MK Dons	10	3	1	6	11	14	-3	10
Bristol Rovers	11	2	3	6	15	22	-7	9
Forest Green	11	2	2	7	10	25	-15	8
Burton Albion	11	2	1	8	14	26	-12	7
Morecambe	11	1	4	6	8	21	-13	7

Accrington Stanley	(0) 3	Morecambe	(0) 1
Coyte 58		Astley 77og	
Hamilton 81		2,916	
Leigh 85			
Bolton	(1) 2	Lincoln City	(0) 0
Charles 40pen			
Bodyarsson 84		17,263	
Burton Albion	(1) 3	Forest Green	(0) 2
Adebayo 6, 82, 90		Brown 52	
2,620		Wickham 69pen	
Cambridge Utd	(0) 0	Derby	(1) 2
6,813		Colins 45, 83	
Charlton	(0) 1	Oxford Utd	(1) 1
Stockley 55		Browne 11	
12,806			
Cheltenham	(1) 2	Shrewsbury	(0) 0
Long 45			
May 46		3,842	
Exeter	(0) 2	Bristol Rovers	(0) 2
J Brown 72pen		Marquis 62	
Nombe 81		Loft 90	
7,816			
Fleetwood	(0) 0	Barnsley	(0) 1
4,024		Aitchison 90	
Ipswich	(1) 3	Portsmouth	(1) 2
Harness 25		Bishop 32pen, 79 pen	
Ladapo 74			
Burns 80		28,434	
MK Dons	(0) 2	Peterborough	(2) 3
Harvie 90		Clarke-Harris 3	
Smith 90		Poku 36	
8,963		Jade-Jones 54	
Port Vale	(0) 0	Sheffield Wed	(0) 1
11,336		Vaulks 63	
Wycombe	(0) 0	Plymouth	(1) 1
5,869		Cosgrove 8pen	

## LEADING GOALSCORERS

8 Bishop (Portsmouth), Clarke-Harris (Peterborough), 7 J Brown (Exeter), 6 Collins (Bristol Rovers), Nombe (Exeter), 5 Adebayo (Burton Albion), Brannagan (Oxford Utd), Chaplin (Ipswich), Harrison (Port Vale), Mehmet (Wycombe).

## Sky Bet League Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Leyton Orient	11	9	1	1	19	6	+13	28
Northampton	11	8	2	1	23	12	+11	26
Stevenage	11	8	1	2	14	10	+4	25
Bradford City	11	6	3	2	18	10	+8	21
Salford City	11	6	3	2	16	9	+7	21
Barrow	11	7	0	4	15	12	+3	21
Mansfield	11	6	2	3	18	12	+6	20
Doncaster	11	6	2	3	16	13	+3	20
Carlisle	11	4	6	1	13	10	+3	18
Swindon	11	4	5	2	13	11	+2	17
Tranmere	11	5	1	5	11	9	+2	16
Crewe	11	4	4	3	12	11	+1	16
Gillingham	11	4	4	3	11	10	+1	16
Sutton Utd	11	4	2	5	12	12	0	14
AFC Wimbledon	11	3	3	5	13	16	-3	12
Newport County	11	3	2	6	12	15	-3	11
Walsall	11	2	4	5	11	11	0	10
Gillingham	11	2	4	5	3	11	-8	10
Stockport County	11	2	3	6	12	16	-4	9
Harrogate	11	2	2	7	7	14	-7	8
Colchester	11	1	3	7	8	16	-8	6
Crawley	11	1	3	7	10	19	-9	6
Hartlepool	11	0	6	5	8	19	-11	6
Rochdale	11	1	2	8	7	18	-11	5

AFC Wimbledon	(0) 2	Colchester	(1) 1
Davidson 47, 66pen		Applah 18	
7,328			
Carlisle	(0) 0	Crewe	(0) 0
5,012			
Crawley	(0) 1	Stevenage	(1) 2
Nadesan 47		Roberts 23	
2,732		Norris 85pen	
Gillingham	(0) 1	Sutton Utd	(0) 0
MacDonald 90		4,153	
Harrogate	(0) 1	Bradford City	(1) 2
Headley 48		Cook 15pen	
2,505		Wright 73	
Leyton Orient	(0) 1	Newport County	(2) 2
Drinan 64		Evans 22	
7,403		Bogle 26pen	
Rochdale	(1) 1	Doncaster	(1) 2
Quigley 44		Aqard 39	
3,264		Miller 68	
Salford City	(1) 1	Gillingham	(1) 1
Vassell 2		Richardson 29	
3,521			
Stockport County	(1) 1	Walsall	(0) 1
Madden 27		Williams 88	
8,805			
Swindon	(0) 1	Northampton	(0) 2
Williams 62		Fox 68	
9,789		Pinnock 88	
Tranmere	(1) 1	Barrow	(0) 0
Hawkes 25		6,123	
(played on Friday)			
Mansfield	(0) 2	Hartlepool	(0) 2
Lapslie 51		Umerah 62, 89	
Harbottle 59		6,891	

## LEADING GOALSCORERS

12 Cook (Bradford City), 11 Hoskins (Northampton), 8 Dennis (Carlisle), 7 Gordon (Barrow), Johnson (Walsall), 6 Baker-Richardson (Crewe), Bogle (Newport County), Miller (Doncaster), 5 Umerah (Hartlepool).

## Non-league

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Wrexham	11	8	2	1	31	9	+22	26
Notts County	11	7	3	1	27	11	+16	24
Chesterfield	11	7	3	1	22	13	+9	24
Boreham Wood	11	6	4	1	18	9	+9	22
Bromley	11	6	2	3	17	12	+5	20
Solihull Moors	11	5	4	2	25	14	+11	19
Woking	11	5	4	1	19	10	+9	19
Wealdstone	11	5	4	2	12	9	+3	19
York	11	5	3	3	16	10	+6	18
Dorking Wanderers	11	5	1	5	22	25	-3	16
Southend	11	4	3	4	10	9	+1	15
Eastleigh	11	4	3	4	13	14	-1	15
Barnet	11	4	2	5	18	22	-4	14
Dag & Red	11	4	2	5	19	26	-7	14
Maidenhead Utd	11	4	1	6	9	13	-4	13
Gateshead	11	2	5	4	14	16	-2	11
Oldham	11	3	2	6	11	19	-8	11
Maldstone Utd	11	3	2	6	13	25	-12	11
Yeovil	11	1	6	4	10	13	-3	9
Aldershot	11	3	0	8	14	19	-5	9
Scunthorpe	11	2	3	6	14	21	-7	9
Torquay	11	2	3	6	7	19	-12	9
Aldershot	11	1	5	5	11	22	-11	8
Halifax	11	2	2	7	7	19	-12	8

Aldershot 1 Wealdstone 2; Barnet 0 York 5; Boreham Wood 3 Maidstone Utd 1; Chesterfield 1 Maidenhead Utd 2; Dorking Wanderers 5 Dag & Red 1; Gateshead 1 Eastleigh 1; Halifax 0 Woking 4; Notts County 3 Aldershot 1; Oldham 1 Wrexham 2; Solihull Moors 2 Bromley 2; Southend 1 Yeovil 0; Torquay 1 Scunthorpe 1.

**VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH**  
Leamington 2 Telford 2; Southport 4 Bradford PA 1  
Leading standings: 1 King's Lynn Town P10 Pts21, 2 Banbury Utd 10-20, 3 Darlington 10-20

**VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH**  
Dartford 2 Hungerford Town 0  
Leading standings: 1 Ebbsfleet Utd P10 Pts28, 2 Havant & Waterlooville 10-26, 3 Dartford 11-21

**ISTHMIAN PREMIER LEAGUE**  
Aveley 3 Margate 1, Bishop's Cleeve 0 Wingate & Finchley 0; Bowers & Pitsea 0 Horsham 0; Canvey Island 3 Bognor Regis 2  
Leading standings: 1 Aveley P9 Pts19, 2 Horsham 8-18, 3 Enfield Town 10-18

**NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE**  
Atherton Collieries 2 Ashton Utd 0; FC United 1 Marine 1; Gaisley 1 Warrington Rylands 1, Lancaster City 1  
Belper Town 1, Matlock Town 1 Nantwich Town 1, Stafford Rangers 2 Liversedge 0, Stalybridge Celtic 0  
Morpegh Town 3; Warrington Town 1 Radcliffe 0  
Leading standings: 1 Stafford Rangers P12 Pts21, 2 Matlock Town 13-21, 3 Hyde Utd 10-20

**SOUTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE CENTRAL**  
Bedford Town 2 Stourbridge 4, Hednesford Town 5  
Rushden & Diamonds 0, Kings Langley 2 Bromsgrove Sporting 5, Redditch Utd 4 Royston Town 2, Stratford Town 0  
Rushall Olympic 5; Tamworth 4 Barwell 1  
Leading standings: 1 Tamworth P10 Pts23, 2 Nuneaton Borough 9-20, 3 Coalville Town 9-19

**SOUTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE SOUTH**  
Beaconsfield Town 0 Poole Town 2, Chesham Utd 3  
Thynton Town 0, Dorchester Town 3 Harrow Borough 2,  
Gosport Borough 2 North Leigh 0, Hartley Wintney 0 Truro 1  
Leading standings: 1 Truro P10 Pts24, 2 Weston-super-Mare 9-23, 3 Chesham Utd 9-20

67.65, 272.4 Taituku (Tha) 66.67 72.67 273.3 Mutanugam (Tha) 67.68 70.68, C Knight 71.68 71.63, 274.1 Salas 66.72 69.67, 5 Ryu (Kor) 69.68 68.69, 275.3 Boutier (Fr) 68.69 66.72

## Tennis

**ATP KOREA OPEN** (Seoul, South Korea)  
Final: Y Nishioka (Jpn) bt D Shapovalov (Can) 6-4 7-6 (7-5)  
**ATP SOFIA OPEN** (Bulgaria)  
Final: M-A Hülsler (Swi) bt H Rune (Den) 6-4 7-6



## Sport

### Athletics TCS London Marathon

A star is born in debut to remember

Yalemzerf Yehualaw reaches the finishing line to celebrate her historic victory at the London Marathon  
PAUL HARDING/GETTY IMAGES



# Pride comes after the fall: Yehualaw races into history

The 23-year-old trips over but recovers to become youngest female winner in London

Sean Ingle  
The Mail

First she flew like superwoman. Then she ran like one. And, on the streets of London, a new star was born as the 23-year-old athlete Yalemzerf Yehualaw became the youngest woman to win the London Marathon.

What made Yehualaw's victory more stunning was that she endured a spectacular faceplant on a sleeping policeman speed bump with six miles to go. It sent the Ethiopian sprawling, caused considerable soreness to her hip, hand and knee, and left her at least 25 metres behind the leading pack.

Yehualaw, however, picked herself up, rushed back into contention and then destroyed her rivals with a devastating burst to win in 2hr 17min 26sec.

It was the third fastest time in the history of the women's race, behind only Paula Radcliffe and Mary Keitany.

"I was heading to a water station so I did not see the bump coming," Yehualaw said afterwards. "It was very painful. I have lost some feeling

in my hip, knee and my hand. They are still sore now."

A leading group of six was whittled down gradually so that with two miles remaining the race was a shootout between Yehualaw and last year's winner Joyciline Jepkosgei. But it was then that the Ethiopian hit the afterburners. She ran that 24th mile in an extraordinary 4min 43sec to power to victory by 41sec.

Yehualaw, who runs for the same NN group as the men's world champion Eliud Kipchoge, now plans a return to London in April to defend her title. But she admits she will have bigger goals on her mind then, too.

"It is my first time in London, so I am so happy to win," said Yehualaw, who runs 180km to 195km a week in training. "People were shouting a lot and it inspired me. But the longer plan I have is that I would like to next time break the world record."

The best British finisher, Rose Harvey, said she was delighted to do so well having started training seriously in lockdown. "I got made redundant," the 30-year-old athlete said, after finishing 10th in 2:27:59.

"I work in corporate finance law. I had three months' gardening leave and I started training for a half ironman. My coach spotted me at the track and asked if I needed some coaching. I got a new job but kept going."

'More than 40,000 runners from 18 to 89 created their own London memories'

Sean Ingle  
News Page 4 →

## Results

### Men

- 1 A Kipruto (Ken) (🇰🇪) 2:04:39
- 2 L Gebresilase (Eth) 2:05:12
- 3 B Abdi (Bel) 2:05:19

### Women

- 1 Y Yehualaw (Eth) 2:17:26
- 2 J Jepkosgei (Ken) 2:18:07
- 3 A Megertu (Eth) 2:18:32

### Men's wheelchair

- 1 M Hug (Swi) 1:24:38
- 2 D Romanchuk (US) 1:24:40
- 3 D Weir (GB) 1:30:41

### Women's wheelchair

- 1 C Debrunner (Swi) 1:38:24
- 2 S Scaroni (US) 1:42:21
- 3 E Rainbow-Cooper (GB) 1:47:27



Meanwhile the men's race was won by Amos Kipruto, who has often been the bridesmaid but never the bride in major races.

The 30-year-old Kenyan had won the bronze medal at the 2019 World Athletics Championships and was second at the 2022 Tokyo Marathon behind Kipchoge. Here he looked strong throughout.

The decisive strike came as the leading group entered the Blackfriars tunnel. At that point four athletes were still in contention but Kipruto put in a 4:21 on mile 25 to bound clear to victory in 2:04:39. "I was thinking this is the day," Kipruto said. "And I made it. This is the biggest win of my career."

The Ethiopian Leul Gebresilase was second in 2:05:12, followed by the Belgian athlete Bashir Abdi seven seconds back in third. Meanwhile the 40-year-old Kenenisa Bekele, the second fastest marathoner of all time and one of the greatest distance runners in history, dug in deep to finish fifth in 2:05:53.

The first Briton home was the 28-year-old Weynay Ghebresilasie, who was born in Eritrea but qualified last year to represent Great Britain. He finished ninth in a personal best time of 2:11:57, followed closely by his compatriot Philip Sesemann.

In the men's wheelchair race, the 43-year-old David Weir was delighted to finish in third in his 23rd consecutive London Marathon.

"There's still a lot of pressure on me to do well because people expect me to podium every time I race but they forget how old I am," Weir said. "But the London marathon is special to me because it's one of the first races I did in a race chair."

## American football

# Joseph's late field goal gives Vikings win over Saints

New Orleans Saints 25

Minnesota Vikings 28

Graham Searles

Tottenham Hotspur Stadium

The NFL waltzed back into London as the Minnesota Vikings edged the New Orleans Saints 28-25 thanks to a dynamite display from Justin Jefferson and the trusty boot of Greg Joseph.

The receiver's electric pace set up the winning field goal for Joseph as the Vikings move to 3-1 and top of the NFC North, while New Orleans sink to 1-3 and last in the NFC South.

The optimism for Andy Dalton v Kirk Cousins II, a sequel to the 27-27 overtime tie between Cincinnati and Washington in 2017, was admirable but, after a first half full of mistakes from both quarterbacks, the contest simmered into a thrilling shootout.

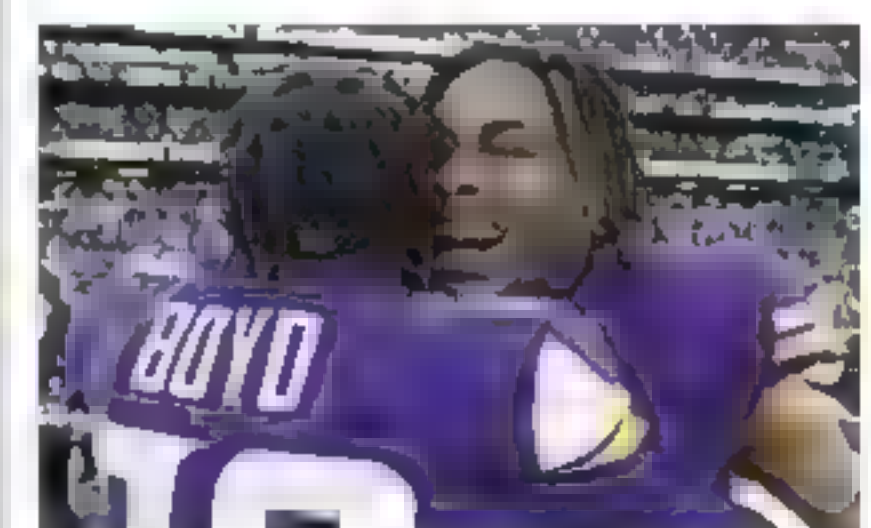
The final twist was provided by Jefferson as he left Marshon Lattimore in his dust to catch a 39-yard pass from Cousins with the scores level and 97 seconds remaining. The Saints prevented a touchdown but Joseph sealed the victory from 47 yards.

The first half burst into life as Minnesota caught New Orleans napping to set Alexander Mattison scampering home for an opening score with seven minutes gone. Tyrann Mathieu then kicked the Saints into gear as he anticipated a Cousins pass and intercepted. Dalton capitalised on the favourable field position and levelled the score with a four-yard pass to Chris Olave. Joseph nudged the Vikings ahead as the period ticked away.

In the second half Latavius Murray and Taysom Hill notched touchdowns to give the Saints hope of an unlikely win from Dalton drives downfield and, alarmingly for Minnesota, they could only answer through the boot of Joseph.

New Orleans had the lead at 22-19 with nine minutes remaining. But it did not last after some running trickery on the three-yard line. Jefferson swung around the offensive line and Cousins handed him the ball on the move to stun the Saints.

Wil Lutz had a moment to celebrate as he nailed a kick from 60 yards to tie the score at 25-25, but it fell to his opposite number Joseph to score the decisive kick.



▲ Justin Jefferson (right) and Kris Boyd celebrate Vikings' victory



# Pérez sees off Leclerc in style as rivals slip and slide

Giles Richards

The Singapore Grand Prix was billed as a potential title decider for Max Verstappen but instead of a coronation there was but consternation and contrition. Nor was he the only world champion found wanting on the streets of Marina Bay. Lewis Hamilton was among a swathe of drivers caught out as these gladiators at the pinnacle of motor racing lumbered in ungainly style into the barriers under an unforgiving, floodlit glare.

Red Bull's Sergio Pérez won the race with a commanding victory over Ferrari's Charles Leclerc that served as a salutary reminder of how the track in treacherous, wet conditions could be tamed, in a race featuring a series of incidents prompting five interruptions by the safety and virtual safety car. It was Pérez's fourth win and the best of his career, in that

he mastered the slippery surface and fought off a race-long challenge from Leclerc. His victory hung in the balance for more than two hours afterwards for a safety-car infringement but the five-second penalty imposed did not deny him the place.

Yet what had caught the eye was behind him as many careered about the circuit with considerably less grace. Not least Verstappen, who put in what was comfortably the worst race of his season, a rollercoaster of charging up and falling back that ended with him managing only seventh.

The scale of just how far off his recent form he had been was evident as he sat slumped on the ground afterwards, apparently dumbfounded by a shocking day.

Verstappen had been on the back foot from the off having qualified only eighth. Worse followed as the Dutchman cursed his luck. The anti-stall kicked in on his car off the start

and he sunk backwards to 12th in seconds. The win that was required if he was to take the title in this race had gone but he fought back, making it up to fourth after the mid-race pit stops – only to see it slip away.

After another safety car, the calm, considered Verstappen that had won 11 races this season with iron control appeared to have melted away in the heat of Singapore.

He went hard on the restart but was far too ambitious, taking too much pace into turn seven. He locked-up trying to pass Lando Norris and sailed straight on into the escape road. This was rookie stuff, the floodlights leaving nowhere to hide in this edition of wacky races.

Nor was the pain over. The lock-up shot his tyres and he was forced to pit and emerged in 14th, at the back of the field. Another laudable fightback ensued to secure seventh, a reminder of how well he can execute, but it was far from where he wants

to be and he was suitably blunt in his assessment.

"It's not what I am here for," he said. "Not with a car like that, it was incredibly messy."

Such has been his dominance this year, however, that Verstappen remains in a strong position to wrap up the championship at the next round in Japan. He leads Leclerc by 104 points and Pérez by 106. He will secure his second title if he is ahead of both drivers by 112 points after the race at Suzuka. A win will suffice if Leclerc finishes lower than second.

Hamilton, too, had been hopeful of better, yet he was also found unusually wanting. Bottled up behind the Ferrari of Carlos Sainz, who finished in third, he was clearly frustrated: on lap 33 went in too deep at turn seven and pitched nose-first into the barriers.

It was an error of the kind it is hard to remember the seven-time champion making in almost a decade. His car is a handful, the track is bumpy and was still slippery, but his touch in the wet is such it was a moment that felt almost surreal, prompting a double-take of disbelief.

With his front wing damaged he too fell down the field to manage only ninth but Hamilton held his hands up. "I am so sorry about that guys, I

fucked it up big time," he said. "My apologies to the team, we live and we learn. I am not going to punish myself for a mistake."

The two champions were not alone. Yuki Tsunoda similarly plunged into the barriers, while Alex Albon planted his front wing in the barrier with such determination that it chose to stay put as he pulled away to trail back to the pits before retiring.

Pérez, however, showed no such shortcomings. He deserved a mighty win, having taken the lead from Leclerc off the line – after an hour-long delay to the start because of the heavy rain – and held it throughout. There were no flaws, indeed he saw off huge pressure from Leclerc in the final quarter and opened enough of a gap to negate the penalty the team had warned him might be imposed. The Mexican knew he had earned the victory.

"It was certainly my best performance," Pérez said. "The last few laps was so intense I didn't feel it that much in the car but when I got out I felt it. I gave everything for the win."

The championship moves on to Suzuka, then, where Verstappen will be expecting a return to normal service. It would, it seems, only be fitting to seal the title in more style than was on show in Singapore.

## Mistakes aplenty in difficult conditions

Sergio Pérez held fast on a slippery circuit even as Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton came unstuck

DANIEL HAKIM/AP



## Results and standings

1	Sergio Pérez Mex	25pts
	Red Bull	2hr 2min 15.238sec
2	Charles Leclerc Mon	18
	Ferrari	+7.595
3	Carlos Sainz Jr Sp	15
	Ferrari	+15.305
4	Lando Norris GB	12
	McLaren	+26.133
5	Daniel Ricciardo Aus	10
	McLaren	+58.282
6	Lance Stroll Can	8
	Aston Martin	+1 01.330
7	Max Verstappen Neth	6
	Red Bull	+1 03.825
8	Sebastian Vettel Ger	4
	Aston Martin	+1 05.032
9	Lewis Hamilton GB	2
	Mercedes	+1 06.515
10	Pierre Gasly Fr	1
	AlphaTauri	+1:14.576
*bonus point fastest lap of 1min 46.458sec		

### Also finished

11	Valtteri Bottas Fin	Alfa Romeo	+1:33.844
12	Kevin Magnussen Den	Haas	+1:37.610
13	Mick Schumacher Ger	Haas	+1 lap
14	George Russell GB	Mercedes*	+2 laps

### Not classified

15	Yuki Tsunoda Jap	AlphaTauri	35 laps
16	Esteban Ocon Fr	Alpine	27 laps
17	Alexander Albon Tha	Williams	26 laps
18	Fernando Alonso Sp	Ferrari	21 laps
19	Nicholas Latifi Can	Williams	8 laps
20	Guanyu Zhou Chn	Alfa Romeo	7 laps

### Championship standings

#### Drivers

1	Max Verstappen	341
2	Charles Leclerc	237
3	Sergio Pérez	235
4	George Russell	203
5	Carlos Sainz	202
6	Lewis Hamilton	170
7	Lando Norris	100
8	Esteban Ocon	66
9	Fernando Alonso	59
10	Valtteri Bottas	46

#### Constructors

1	Red Bull	576
2	Ferrari	439
3	Mercedes	373
4	McLaren	129
5	Alpine	125
6	Alfa Romeo	52
7	Aston Martin	37
8	Haas	34
9	AlphaTauri	34
10	Williams	6



## Sport

**Hands up  
if you're  
winning  
the series**

England  
celebrate  
taking the  
wicket of  
Iftikhar  
Ahmed  
during their  
convincing  
victory  
ALEX DAVIDSON/  
GETTY IMAGES



Cricket Seventh T20 international

# Malan and Brook fire dominant England to series victory

Andy Bull  
Gaddafi Stadium

After seven games, 12 days and countless twists and turns this helter-skelter T20 tour of Pakistan ended in a 4-3 victory for England. The deciding match, which had been one of the most anticipated games held here in the last decade, did not leave a lot for the local fans to cheer about. Their team lost by 67 runs.

The game was as good as done inside the first few overs of Pakistan's innings. They had put England in, because they think of themselves as a chasing team. But they lost both openers in the first eight deliveries. Chris Woakes had Babar Azam caught at cover and two balls later Reece Topley bowled Mohammad Rizwan.

England's 209 already felt like a mountain and this was as if their expedition leaders had stepped out of the tents and fallen straight into the nearest crevasse. Azam and Rizwan together had scored 601 runs at the start of this game, over 200 more than the other 13 Pakistani batsmen had between them. That total looked a very long way away now.

It receded further into the distance when David Willey had Iftikhar Ahmed caught by Phil Salt off the top edge in the sixth over. Willey was pleased, since he dropped him once off his own bowling. Pakistan were 37 for three at the end of the powerplay and the match drifted to a conclusion, Shan Masood plodded on to 56 off 43 balls in an odd and solitary vigil.

It was a shame the game ended so tamely. For a time it reached a pitch of intensity not many T20 matches do. It caught light in the 15th over of England's innings, when Dawid Malan and Harry Brook were together and set. Malan had 42 off 26, Brook 23 off 14, and Azam brought Mohammad Haseeb into the attack. Brook tried to scoop his second ball, which was 91mph, but was beaten by it. Then he tried to scoop his third too, and this time he was hit in the helmet. Haseeb stopped to check on him, then turned back to his mark, and started in again, harder and faster, this time.

Malan swayed away from a bouncer, Brook played and missed at another. They managed to scrape only three runs off it. And then Haris Rauf came on at the other end. He lured Brook into hitting a steeping

catch to Azam at mid-on, but he dropped it. He had already put down a chance off Malan at cover. Pakistan's fielding cost them all as much as their batting did later in the match. Rauf served Brook a slower ball, which he missed, and followed through right down the wicket, presumably to tell Brook exactly how impressed he was by his burgeoning reputation.

Azam decided this was the moment to bring Mohammad Wasim into the attack, which was a mistake. England took 14 off Wasim's over. It was smart batting, the sort of discriminatory

violence Moeen Ali has been saying he wants to see from the team.

Then it was back to Haseeb. This time he hit Malan with a ball that ricocheted off his elbow and into his ribs and left him flat on the ground, winded. He got back to his feet and then launched a slog sweep for six. Rauf took the 19th over and had Malan dropped in the deep by the hapless Wasim, who then had to bowl the last over. Malan pulled him for one six, Brook punched him for another, in an over that went for 20. His four overs cost 61, which was seven more than Rauf and Haseeb went for in eight between them. Malan finished on 78 off 47 balls.

He needed it, not least because earlier he had helped run out Salt. Malan had just come in after Haseeb had Alex Hales leg-before with another quick ball. Haseeb hit Malan on the thigh and Salt came for a leg bye. Malan was so worried about Haseeb's appeal that by the time he sent Salt back again he could almost have tapped him on the nose with his outstretched palm. Salt doubled back the way he came and made a futile dive for the line while Malan stared at his feet.

Ben Duckett was run out too, although Malan was blameless for that one. He played the ball down by his feet, it bounced up past Rizwan, who pulled it down one-handed and whipped the bails off as Duckett lurched forward for a run.

These were rare blemishes, though, almost forgotten (except by Salt) by the end of what turned out to be one of England's most authoritative performances this year. By the time it was over, one could hear the crickets singing in the rafters.

## Scoreboard

Lahore England beat Pakistan by 67 runs and win series 4-3				
England	Balls	4s	6s	
1PD Salt run out (Shadab Khan)	20	12	3	0
AD Hales lbw b Mohammad Haseeb	18	13	3	0
DJ Malan not out	78	47	8	3
BM Duckett run out (Mohammad Rizwan)	30	19	3	1
HC Brook not out	46	29	1	4
Extras (b4, lb3, w10)	17			
<b>Total (for 3, 20 overs)</b>	<b>209</b>			
Fall 39, 39, 101				
Did not bat MM Ali, SM Curran, CR Woakes, DJ Willey, AU Rashid, RJW Topley				
Bowling Mohammad Nawaz 1-0-12-0;				
Mohammad Haseeb 4-0-32-1, Mohammad Wasim 4-0-61-0, Haris Rauf 4-0-24-0, Shadab Khan 3-0-39-0; Iftikhar Ahmed 4-0-34-0.				
Pakistan	Balls	4s	6s	
1 Mohammad Rizwan b Topley	1	4	0	0
2 Babar Azam c Brook b Woakes	4	4	1	0
3 Shan Masood c Rashid b Woakes	56	43	4	1
4 Iftikhar Ahmed c Salt b Willey	19	16	3	0
5 Khushdil Shah c Salt b Rashid	27	25	1	1
6 Asif Ali c Topley b Woakes	7	9	1	0
7 Mohammad Nawaz c Woakes b Curran	9	9	1	0
8 Mohammad Wasim b Willey	5	5	1	0
9 Haris Rauf not out	1	1	0	0
10 Mohammad Haseeb not out	5	4	0	0
Extras (lb3, w5)	8			
<b>Total (for 8, 20 overs)</b>	<b>142</b>			
Fall 5, 5, 33, 86, 99, 125, 135, 135.				
Did not bat Shadab Khan.				
Bowling Woakes 4-0-26-3; Topley 4-0-34-1, Willey 4-0-22-2, Rashid 4-0-25-1, Ali 1-0-5-0; Curran 3-0-27-1				
Toss Pakistan elected to field				
Umpires Ahsan Raza (Pak) and Asif Yaqoob (Pak)				

## Football Continental Cup

# Smith on target as Birmingham stun top-flight Brighton

John Ashdown

Brighton's Continental Cup campaign got off to the worst possible start with the WSL side slipping to a 3-2 defeat at Championship Birmingham in Group C.

Libby Smith opened the scoring for the home side before Jade Pennock doubled the advantage eight minutes after half-time. Lee Geum-min pulled one back on the hour but Lucy Quinn was quick to restore the two-goal cushion and Danielle Carter's 89th-minute penalty was too little too late.

"We knew we'd have to be very good out of possession today and we defended our box really well," said the Birmingham coach, Darren Carter. "Overall it's a fantastic performance."

There was very nearly a double for Championship sides over their WSL rivals in Group C but West Ham were rescued by Dagny Brynjarsdottir's injury-time equaliser against London City Lionesses. West Ham then picked up a bonus point with a 10-9 win in an epic shootout.

"The players showed brilliant character to bring the game back to 2-2 and obviously winning the penalty shootout is another big positive," said the West Ham coach, Paul Konchesky.

Tottenham bounced back from their 4-0 defeat in the north London derby a week ago by getting the better of an all-WSL Group E encounter with Reading at the Select Car Leasing Stadium.

Ashleigh Neville scored the opener for Spurs and Nikola Karczewski gave them a cushion just before the break. Natasha Dowie scored a consolation for the home side from the penalty spot. "It's a huge step forward from last week and that's the most important thing," said the Spurs coach, Rehanne Skinner.

In Group B Leicester made a winning start with a 3-0 victory over Blackburn, while Liverpool edged to a 1-0 win over Sunderland.

And there was plenty of drama between two Championship sides in Group A, with Sheffield United coming back from 2-0 down to draw 3-3 at Durham before the home side prevailed on penalties.



▲ Libby Smith opens the scoring for Birmingham on their way to victory



# Indonesia has a huge passion for football but is no stranger to tragedy

A grieving country has been left to reckon with a complex legacy of fan violence, police brutality and neglect

John Duerden

Indonesia's love for football is the greatest in all of Asia but along with that passion comes a long list of tragedies. The disaster on Saturday in Malang, in which at least 125 fans died when they tried to escape being teargassed by police, is not only by far the worst in the history of the world's fourth most populous country but one of the worst anywhere.

Fans in Indonesia complain about the international media's focus on negative stories from the archipelago rather than examples of a deep football culture but anyone who has attended games in the country would attest that, while it can be a thrilling experience, it is also often intimidating. That was, perhaps, why early reports suggested that there had been clashes between rival sets of supporters; it would not have been the first time. But on this occasion there were only Arema Malang fans present as followers of Persebaya Surabaya were not allowed to attend in an attempt to reduce the potential for violence.

This is a country where away teams are sometimes escorted to stadiums in armoured personnel carriers. In 2019 Malaysia requested one for their World Cup qualifier in Jakarta. Violence is not uncommon. It is estimated that from 1994 to 2019 there were 74 football-related deaths (some say the figures are higher, others lower). There have been plenty of times in the past when football fan groups – such as “Jakmania”, who follow Persija Jakarta – that have six-figure memberships and plenty of influence have come together to say “no more”. One such time was in 2018 when the league was suspended after the death of Haringga Sirila, a fan of Persija who was beaten to death by fans of their bitter rivals Persib Bandung. Two years earlier a 17-year-old Persib fan, Muhammad Rovi Arrahman, suffered the same fate at the hands of Jakarta supporters.

Authorities have struggled to deal with it all, not helped by

**Fans believe that security forces have a habit of hitting first and asking questions later**

incompetence, corruption and mismanagement. The popularity of the game has attracted leaders who use it for their own ends and care little about how it operates. Nurdin Halid served time in prison for corruption in 2007 but was still allowed to continue as president of the football association. When he was eventually banned by Fifa in 2011 for standing for a third term in office, such was the battle for power that two rival leagues, federations and national teams emerged. In 2015 Fifa banned the country from the international game.

Yet when the suspension was lifted a year later, not much had changed. Fan groups say that authorities do not, or cannot, plan properly and that there is little attempt to manage crowds. Overcrowding is not unheard of. Authorities on Saturday said that there were 42,000 tickets issued for a 38,000-capacity arena. Those without tickets for big games can sometimes gain entry by gathering outside entrances in the hope or expectation that they

will eventually be allowed in. This has happened in international games, too. In the 2007 Asian Cup, when Indonesia played Saudi Arabia, there was an official attendance of 88,000 and the Gelora Bung Karno Stadium was full even before thousands more managed to gain entry later to sit on steps and in gangways.

Fans believe that security forces have a habit of hitting first and asking questions later when it comes to football, and police were accused of beating a 16-year-old supporter, Muhammad Fahreza, to death at a game between Persija and Persela Lamongan in 2016. Thousands of fellow supporters held a vigil for the youngster and held up signs demanding an end to police brutality against football fans.

Teargas is at a different level, however. The tragic events of the weekend came at a time when there had been some encouraging news coming out of the country. The national team, long-term underachievers in Asia with results

‘Victims came to be treated by the team doctor. Fans died in the arms of players’  
**Disaster in Indonesia**  
News ← Page 19

▼ People light candles at a vigil for those who died in Malang on Saturday  
MADE NAGI/EPA



Football Sky Bet Championship

## Bilic cheers dream start as Watford romp

Stoke 0

Watford 4

Sarr 12, Sema 64, Davis 78, Bayo 84

Slaven Bilic enjoyed a memorable start to life as Watford manager with a fine 4-0 victory at Stoke, thanks to goals from Ismaila Sarr, Ken Sema, Keinan Davis and Vakoun Bayo.

Bilic, who managed West Ham between 2015 and 2017, became Watford's ninth manager in three years after Rob Edwards was sacked on Monday following a torrid run of one win in seven Championship games. This victory was the club's biggest since hammering Bristol City 6-0 in February 2021 and was also their first clean sheet in 11 fixtures.

"It's the dream start," said Bilic. "It's a great win for us. It's well deserved. A clean sheet, four goals, the strikers scoring goals. That's what you dream of before games. We suffered together when needed and defended as a team."

"If you give space to our players out wide and up front [they will punish you] because they are good players. The group is good. We aren't going to rave now because we won. This is the blueprint that we want to follow. This is the pattern."

Bilic's opposite number, Alex Neil, has suffered a shaky start since jumping ship from Sunderland to Stoke at the end of August. This mauling means the former Preston manager has won just one of his first five games in charge.

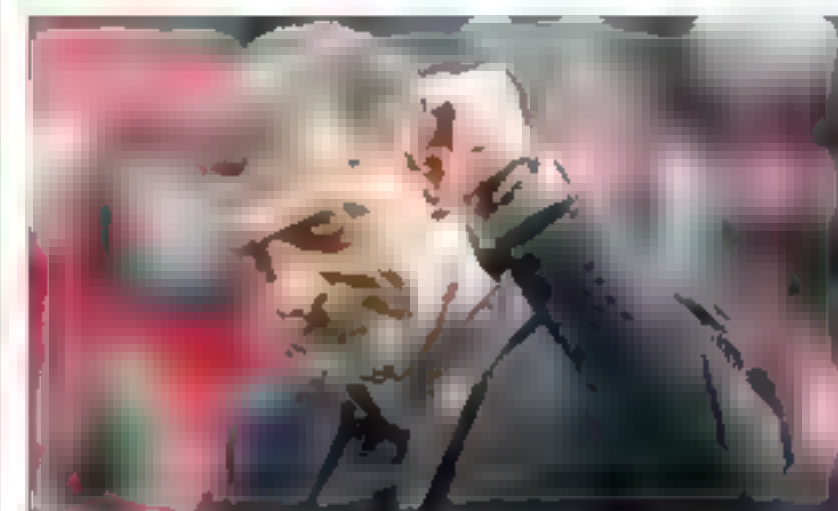
"It's disappointing," he said. "When you lose any game in that manner it's really disappointing and frustrating."

"The fact is in any game the pride you've got as an individual and the pride you've got as a team and pride to show for your club, you've got to rally, you've got to give it a go and you've got to never give in."

"I don't think we can say that and that was certainly a bit of an eye opener for me today, and a big frustration." PA Media

Stoke	Watford
3-1-4-2	4-2-3-1
Bursik, Wilmot, Flint, Fox, Laurent, Fosu-Henry, Baker, Smadbone, Sterling (Clarke 77), Dewap, Gayle (Campbell 72)	Bachmann, Gaspar, Kabasele, Sierralta, Kamara, Choudhury, Kayembe, Sarr (Bayo 81), Asprilla (Louza 59), Sema (Hungbo 87), Davis (Gosling 87)
Subs not used: Bonham, Jagielka, Wright, Phillips, Taylor, Sparrow	Subs not used: Hause, Okoye, Morris

Referee Josh Smith Attendance 19,905



▲ Slaven Bilic celebrates victory in his first game as Watford manager

never coming close to matching population and passion, qualified in June for the 2023 Asian Cup and will appear on the continental stage for the first time since 2007, thanks to an impressive win over Kuwait in Kuwait City.

Next year Indonesia is scheduled to host the Fifa Under-20 World Cup. This tournament was driving investment in facilities and was hailed as a huge step in the country's development and long-term dream of one day becoming the "Brazil of Asia", not just in terms of passion and colour but also in terms of ability. While there are bigger problems at the moment, there have already been statements of concern as to whether this disaster will cause the world governing body to stage the event elsewhere.

The country's president, Joko Widodo, has ordered a stop to all league games until there is an investigation as to what happened and an evaluation made into the security situation of all matches. "I regret that this tragedy occurred," he said. "And I hope this is the last football tragedy in the country." It could be that this huge and tragic loss of life finally forces real change in the attitudes of all parties: government, sporting federations and security forces, as well as the fans themselves. For the moment, however, a country mourns.



## Sport

### Football Premier League

# Martins in the frame after Wolves sack Lage

Ben Fisher

Wolves have sacked Bruno Lage as head coach after a dismal start to the season culminated in the club dropping into the Premier League relegation zone. The club's owners, Fosun, decided to act after defeat at West Ham on Saturday extended their dire form to one win in 15 matches.

Wolves have sounded out the former Olympiakos coach Pedro Martins and are expected to hold further talks this week. The Portuguese, who won

three Greek league titles and faced Wolves in the Europa League in 2019-20, is a strong contender and is keen on working in the Premier League. Wolves previously considered the Sevilla manager, Julen Lopetegui, and could revive their interest in the former Spain coach.

Lage took charge in June 2021 but he and his backroom staff were dismissed yesterday after talks with the Wolves chairman, Jeff Shi. Last season tailed off badly, as Wolves finished 10th and squandered the chance to qualify for European football, and Lage has failed to provide

any uplift this campaign. Wolves backed Lage with more than £100m for signings in the summer but a series of alarming displays led to fans turning on him.

Fosun had hoped to see a return on their heavy investment, including a club-record £38m outlay on Matheus Nunes from Sporting, but new signings have struggled and goals have been a major problem, with Wolves scoring only three in eight games.

Lage was unfortunate that the striker Sasa Kalajdzic, a £15m summer arrival from Stuttgart, sustained a serious knee injury on debut last month.

Wolves are working to appoint Lage's successor and, while nothing is imminent, they hope to have a new manager in the dugout for the trip to Chelsea on Saturday.

Steve Davis, a former Crewe and



▲ Bruno Lage lost his job following Wolves' 2-0 defeat at West Ham

Leyton Orient manager and now Wolves' under-21s coach, and James Collins, the under-18s coach, will take training in the interim before the trip to Stamford Bridge. Lage's backroom staff, including his brother and assistant coach, Luis Nascimento, have also departed.

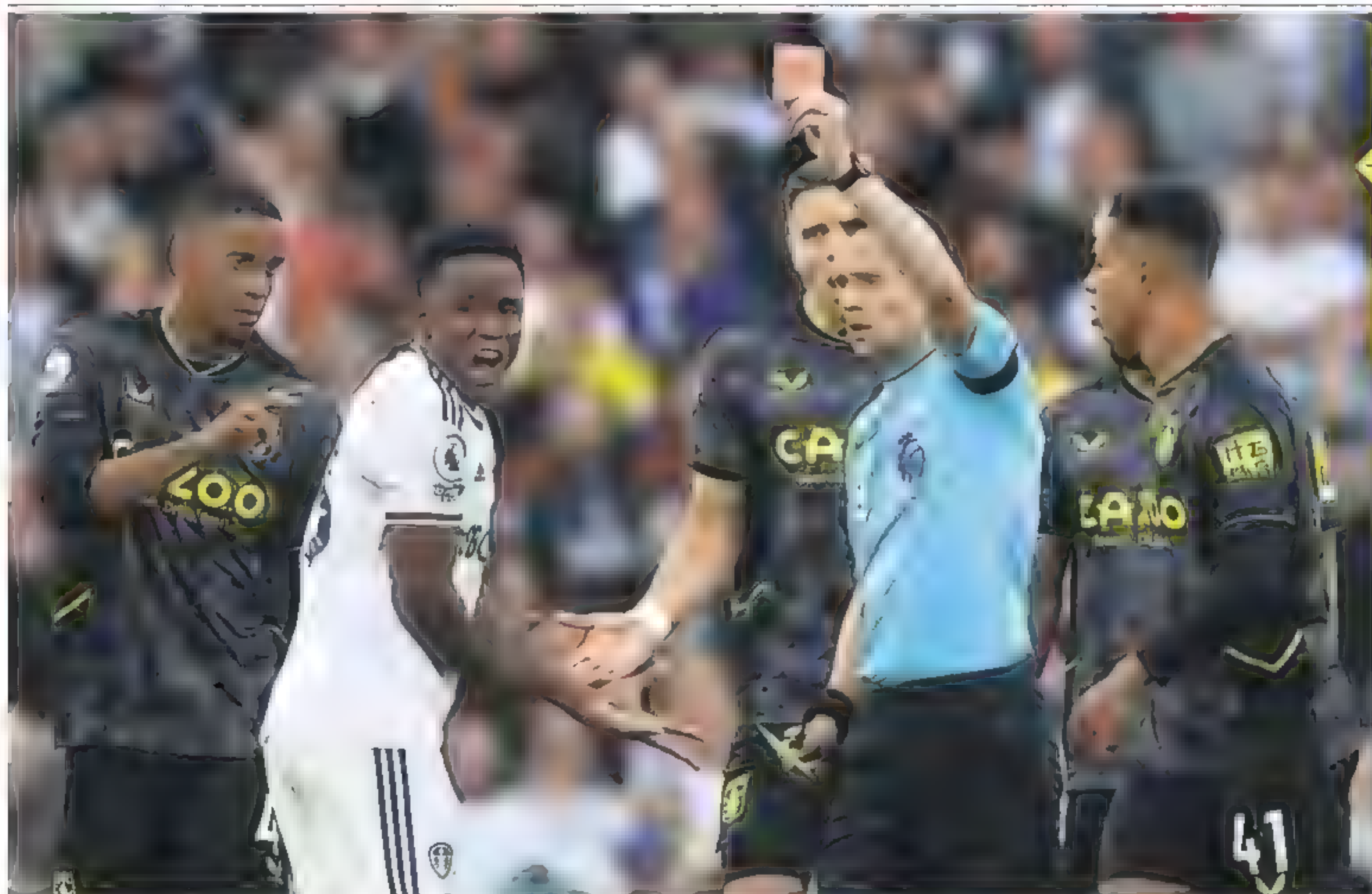
Lage was disappointed that Wolves did not sign a centre-back and another striker before the transfer deadline but Diego Costa arrived on a free and

made his debut as a substitute in the 2-0 defeat at the London Stadium.

Lage pointed to Costa's appearance and the absence of strikers as mitigation for his side's poor form. "Strikers are important, not just for my team," Lage said on Saturday. "We are completely different when we have a striker in our team. When we have started with a striker in the first XI, we have not lost in the Premier League. This is not an excuse but it's a fact."

Shi said Wolves were left with "no choice but to act". The chairman said: "Bruno is an excellent coach, a hard-working and dedicated manager, and a warm, wise and honest man."

"On behalf of everyone at Wolves, I would like to place on record our gratitude to Bruno and his coaching team for all their efforts during their time with the club, and wish them the very best for the future."



**Silliest red card of the season?**

Luis Sinisterra protests after receiving a second yellow for blocking a free-kick  
LEE SMITH/  
ACTION IMAGES/  
REUTERS

In between all the hostilities, not to mention those moments when Attwell either seemed in peril of losing control or overly pedantic, Illan Meslier reminded everyone of his talent, making a couple of decent saves from Ollie Watkins and another from Leon Bailey.

Despite initially dominating around 70 per cent of possession, Leeds struggled to test Meslier's counterpart, the underworked Emiliano Martinez as they failed to pass the ball cleverly enough to challenge Gerrard's central defensive axis of Tyrone Mings and Ezri Konsa.

Sensing opportunity, Villa gradually improved and, with Watkins making a nuisance of himself, Coutinho started making his presence felt, sending a volley ricocheting off a post early in the second half.

Gerrard probably could not believe his luck when Sinisterra was sent off for that idiotic second bookable offence. As the winger not merely failed to retreat 10 yards but stuck out a leg to block Douglas Luiz's attempts to take a swift free-kick, Marsch's head sunk into his hands.

Leeds had paid the price for the sort of hot-headed indiscipline which their manager has failed to control. Admittedly Luiz provoked the Colombian by arguably aiming his delivery at his shin but, had Sinisterra - earlier booked for a challenge on John McGinn - not raised his foot, he would have gone unpunished. "I think Luis knows that was not an intelligent decision," said Marsch, who has already scheduled conversations about time-wasting with the refereeing authorities.

Down to 10 men Leeds switched to 5-3-1 but, although Konsa's block denied Patrick Bamford, Meslier looked relieved when Emi Buendia bent a shot fractionally wide.

"I'm frustrated," said Gerrard. "We've got the quality but we need our big players to step up in big moments."

# Leeds make their point despite Sinisterra's red in fiery contest

Leeds 0  
Aston Villa 0

Louise Taylor  
Elland Road

The puzzling thing is that, along the way to collecting an Ivy League history degree from Princeton University Jesse Marsch produced a 117-page dissertation entitled: "Shaken, not stirred; an evaluation of earthquake awareness in California."

With that background the Leeds manager might have been expected to be a little more conscious of the

disciplinary fault lines which, quite apart from preventing his side displaying their true abilities, prompted a few alarming tremors yesterday.

Ultimately an often ill-tempered contest involving two feisty yet fragile teams - if the jury remains out on Marsch. Steven Gerrard's Villa tenure also seems perched on delicately between impending calamity and mid-table stability - concluded with just the one sending-off, namely Leeds' Luis Sinisterra for a ludicrous second bookable offence.

There were, though, moments when a game sporadically illuminated by Philippe Coutinho's skill threatened to descend into a full-on brawl. If a Villa ensemble prone to time wasting at every opportunity

played their part in provoking that, Leeds allowed themselves to be wound up far too easily.

"There's moments where I think we can be smarter, manage the referee and everything," conceded Marsch, who was clearly irritated by both Gerrard's tactics and Stuart Attwell's officiating. "But it was a good clean sheet and, with a man down, a good result. I feel sorry for the fans. They had to sit through a game where almost from the first minute it seemed the tactic of the opponent was to slow the game down."

By the final whistle the bookings score was 5-2 to Leeds, meaning that two teams who seem to have developed an almost chemical mutual dislike have now collected 31 yellow and

two red cards in their last five Premier League meetings.

Attwell swiftly found himself presiding over an extremely tricky game to referee with snide little off-the-ball fouls happening all over the pitch as Leeds failed to establish their preferred high tempo.

Indeed it was probably a blessing in disguise that Marsch had been banished to the press box in the wake of his sending off in Leeds' last game, a 5-2 defeat at Brentford 29 days ago which prompted a one-game touchline ban. Without that suspension few would have bet against the sometimes volatile American and Gerrard crossing technical-area swords.

"We came here to frustrate Leeds," admitted Villa's manager. "If you let them play to their rhythm they'll run all over you, so we slowed the game to our tempo and went to war where needed. I'm not interested in what Jesse thinks about our tactics. We did what we need to do." And the referee? "He didn't do much wrong," said Gerrard, smiling. "He had a very good game."

Leeds	Aston Villa
4-2-3-1	4-3-3
Meslier, Kristensen	Martinez, Young, Konsa,
(Ayling 68), Koch 7,	Mings, Augustinsson
Cooper, Struijk, Adams,	(Bednarek 45), Ramsey
Roca (Firpo 58),	(Ings 83), Douglas Luiz,
Harrison (Summerville	McGinn, Bailey
79), Aaronson (Klich 79),	(Buendia 64), Watkins,
Sinisterra 8, Rodrigo	Coutinho
(Bamford 68)	Subs not used
Subs not used	Olsen, Sanson, Nakamba,
Kjaersson, Llorente,	Dendoncker, Bogarde,
Gnonto, Greenwood	Archer

Referee Stuart Attwell Attendance 36,582



# Aubameyang could be the one to end Chelsea's No 9 curse

Having cycled through elite centre-forwards in recent years, Chelsea may finally have found the right man

**Sachin Nakrani**

Immediately after Chelsea's 2-1 victory against Crystal Palace on Saturday, much of the focus was, quite rightly, on the visitors' second goal. Conor Gallagher's 90th-minute winner was as spectacular as it was dramatic and, given it came against the club where he enjoyed a successful loan spell last season, rich in narrative. However for Chelsea, their first goal of the afternoon was arguably more noteworthy, not only because it got them back into the game following Odsonne Édouard's seventh-minute opener for Palace but because it came from a centre forward, and specifically a No 9. Mateja Kezman, Hernán Crespo,

Fernando Torres, Álvaro Morata, Gonzalo Higuaín: just some of the elite-level goalscorers who have looked anything but while wearing Chelsea's No 9 shirt during the past couple of decades and, after Romelu Lukaku became the latest to flop in that particular item of clothing, Thomas Tuchel admitted there was a belief within the dressing room that it was cursed.

"Players sometimes want to change numbers but nobody wants to touch it," the German said in early August, shortly after Lukaku had returned to Internazionale on loan. Yet someone has taken it – a man Tuchel brought to Chelsea just before he also left the club and who showed at the weekend he has what it takes to break this most curious of spells.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang required only 38 minutes of his Premier League debut for Chelsea to score his first goal for the team. The strike may have been controversial given it was set up by Thiago Silva not long after the Brazilian centre-back should have been sent off for a cynical handball, but it was also a thing of beauty, Aubameyang guiding a quickly hit and perfectly precise low shot past Vicente Guaita, having expertly turned away from Joel Ward inside

Palace's area. Textbook stuff from a textbook centre-forward, the very thing Chelsea have been lacking for so long and which suggests yet another turbulent season in the club's history could, again, end with success.

"It feels very good to score," Aubameyang said. "When you are a striker you just want to get that first goal as soon as possible and it came today so I am really happy. I am really happy to get back to the Premier League with a goal."

What also caught the eye in regards to Aubameyang's performance was his willingness to drop deep and go wide in order to get involved in Chelsea's buildup play, something for which he is hardly renowned. The 33-year-old completed 20 out of 23 passes, made one pass into the final third, created one goalscoring opportunity and even made one interception. It was an all-round display and, while time will tell if that continues, the early signs are undeniably encouraging from a player who, it is fair to say, has gone through a lot during the past 19 months, from joining Barcelona after his time at Arsenal turned sour to moving to Chelsea in order to rekindle the successful working relationship he had with Tuchel at Borussia Dortmund only to see him sacked after one game together. Oh, and in between he suffered a broken jaw during a home robbery.

"He [Aubameyang] has had a difficult summer for different reasons," said Graham Potter after securing what was his first victory as Chelsea manager. "He's had a quite traumatic experience that can affect you. The way he has handled himself has been A1, so I'm really happy for him to get a goal and contribute to a win."

Next up for Chelsea is Wednesday's Champions League encounter with Milan. For Aubameyang that means another chance to show he definitely has what it takes to snap Stamford Bridge's No 9 hoodoo as well as reacquaint himself with the club where he began his career a little over 14 years ago. Having come through Milan's academy Aubameyang never actually played for the first team, but for someone who was a raw and inexperienced teenager at the time just being able to train with the *Rossoneri's* stars was enough, with one in particular making an especially dazzling impression on the aspiring striker – Ronaldo. *Il Fenomeno*.

"To tell the truth, he was a bit fat by then," recalls Aubameyang with a trademark grin. "But he was still the best. I will always remember when Carlo Ancelotti had a go at him about his fitness, he said: 'What do you want me to do, run or score goals?' Ancelotti said: 'Score goals,' and the next time Ronaldo scored twice.

"For sure that is part of the character you need as a striker because you need to be strong mentally. I learned a lot [from Ronaldo] and now I want to show what I am capable of doing."

◀ **Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang celebrates his goal with Thiago Silva**  
MICHAEL ZEMANEK/SHUTTERSTOCK

## Saturday's talking points

### Arsenal 3-1 Tottenham

Never has an Antonio Conte team gone an entire league season with less than 50% possession. Right now Tottenham's is 48%. In part Spurs' inability to keep the ball stems from deliberate choices: a low defensive block, a reliance on the counterattack, a two-man midfield picked for physicality rather than control. Conte would argue that without a midfield playmaker and with four high-class forwards, he is simply playing to Tottenham's strengths. But it does mean they will often be forced to soak up pressure against strong technical sides. **Jonathan Liew**

### Bournemouth 0-0 Brentford

On the face of things this was a poor result for Bournemouth, the exact kind of game a promoted side would hope to win. But this represented progress. When Gary O'Neil succeeded Scott Parker after the 9-0 defeat at Anfield, Bournemouth had conceded 16 times in three games; in the four since then they have been breached four times. Broadly speaking, O'Neil has used the same players as his predecessor; what has changed is his defence is better organised. But what has really changed is his defence is more confident. There remains work to do but a team that looked extremely likely to go down now look in with a serious chance of staying up. **Daniel Harris**

### Crystal Palace 1-2 Chelsea

It was an afternoon of fury and frustration for Crystal Palace, and overall they did not play well, but there were still positives. Among them another encouraging display by Eberechi Eze almost a year since his return to action following a serious knee injury. He was an especially lively presence in the first half, twice forcing Kepa Arrizabalaga into duty. Eze also carried out his share of defensive duties and, there is little doubt this is a player who is slowly but surely working his way back to the consistently high levels he was at for Palace before his setback. **Sachin Nakrani**

### Fulham 1-4 Newcastle

If anyone epitomised Newcastle's hunger here, then it was Sean Longstaff. While Miguel Almirón deservedly took the headlines for his wonder strike, the 24-year-old midfielder set the tone throughout at Craven Cottage as Eddie Howe's side took full advantage of Nathaniel Chalobah's early red card. The lifelong Newcastle fan celebrated his goal with the travelling supporters and, on a day of train strikes, Longstaff paid tribute to their commitment. "You can make it as difficult as you want for them but they're always going to pack out the away end," he said. "That's why they are the best in the world." **Ed Aarons**



Antonio Conte must lift his players' spirits for Europe this week

### Liverpool 3-3 Brighton

The apprehension inside Anfield was palpable as Liverpool struggled to preserve a 3-2 lead over Brighton. It was also revealing when Jürgen Klopp compared the anxiety – that he shared – to the early "heart attack" days of his reign when he would glare at supporters heading for the exits before the final whistle. The doubts are back and with good reason. Roberto De Zerbi's side could have been four up inside 17 minutes and Liverpool's ability to recover cannot be overlooked. But nor can their weakness as a defensive unit. With Arsenal and Manchester City up next in the Premier League, the recurring flaw needs addressing. "We are trying to put pressure on the ball but teams are adapting to us as well," said Virgil van Dijk. **Andy Hunter**

### Southampton 1-2 Everton

Frank Lampard repeatedly alluded to the strength of character in his Everton squad after this victory, a spirit that was often conspicuous by its absence last season. Conor Coady and James Tarkowski have forged a steely partnership in front of Jordan Pickford, while Idrissa Gueye and Amadou Onana, two more summer signings, dictated the midfield at St Mary's. Another of Everton's eight new faces, Dwight McNeil, scored the winner to send the noisy 3,000-strong away support home happy. Lampard said: "There has been a change of personnel and I think it was needed. We tried to bring in good people as well as good players." **Ben Fisher**

### West Ham 2-0 Wolves

Bruno Lage's struggles with Wolves threw up a philosophical question: how long can it be acceptable to play decent football and look nothing like winning a match? Lage's sacking yesterday brought the answer. At the London Stadium the classier play came from Lage's team but Wolves showed nothing like the incision that brought West Ham's goals. Wolves had won just once in 15 league matches and scored only three this season. Without the suspended Nathan Collins their defence was ravaged by the speed of West Ham's Jarrod Bowen. "If a new manager comes in, he'll still have the same problems," Lage said on Saturday, embracing his inevitable departure. **John Brewin**

**The early signs are encouraging from a man who has gone through a lot during the past 19 months**





**Sport**  
**Football** Premier League

**Haaland's  
hot streak  
continues  
at home**

*Erling  
Haaland  
leaps above  
Manchester  
United  
defenders to  
double City's  
advantage*  
LAURENCE  
GRIFFITHS/  
GETTY IMAGES



# Hat-trick heroes Haaland and Foden humiliate United in derby mauling

## Manchester City

Foden 8 44 72, Haaland 34 37 64

## Manchester United

Antony 56, Martial 84 90pen

### Possession



### Shots on target



### Total attempts



**Jamie Jackson**

*Etihad Stadium*

**6** The phenomenon that is Erling Haaland ended Manchester City's dismantling of Manchester United with a third consecutive home Premier League hat-trick in a chastening afternoon for Erik ten Hag's men.

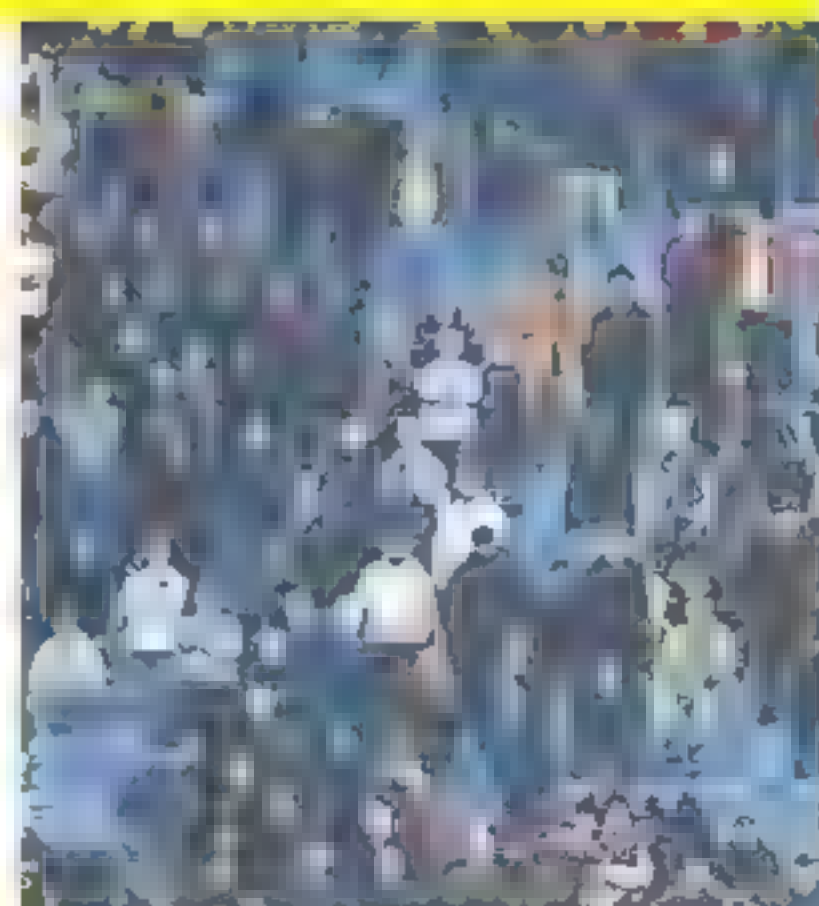
At the moment Haaland is too powerful, too hungry and simply too good for the opposition. The Norwegian can also create, as he did for the passes that allowed Phil Foden to register his second and final finish as he, too, enjoyed a hat-trick.

This 188th derby was the mother and father of all mismatches, City handing their neighbours a lesson that had them reeling, United 4-0 down at half-time as at Brentford and praying this would not end in a double-digit defeat.

## 'They've seen enough...'



▲ United fans walking out before half-time, leaving plenty of empty seats  
SKY SPORTS; MICHAEL REGAN/GETTY IMAGES



A final humiliation came with 25 minutes left when Pep Guardiola made a quadruple substitution, two of those replacing the scintillating Jack Grealish and Kevin De Bruyne.

Antony and Anthony Martial were United's scorers but their strikes made it first 4-1, then 6-2 and 6-3 (the Frenchman scoring two), on a day when United fans were shown leaving at the interval, unable to stomach further bullying of their dazed players.

As Haaland, who now has 17 in 10 games for City, said: "Yeah, not bad. We scored six goals, what can you say? It's nice. We always want to go forward, we always want to attack. This is what I love about the team. In the end it's amazing. There's nothing more to say."

City blew their guests away from kick-off. They monopolised the ball and space and were ahead inside 10 minutes. Before Foden's opener only desperate defending from Scott McTominay and David de Gea prevented them being breached.

When Haaland leaped at the far post to head a Bernardo Silva cross,





▲ Phil Foden's second goal put a dominant Manchester City 4-0 ahead at half-time

▼ Foden (right) celebrates with Haaland after the England midfielder scores City's sixth



### Three in three

Erling Haaland is the first player to score Premier League hat-tricks in three consecutive home games. He is the first City player to score one versus United since Francis Lee in 1970 – and the third overall, with Horace Barnes in 1921. Phil Foden is the fourth.

McTominay stabbed this away only to see De Bruyne rifle a shot that was goal-bound before De Gea's save, Silva having his follow-up stymied.

United were punch-drunk already. Not required was Bruno Fernandes gifting the ball to the champions needlessly, and how they struck. Foden initiated and finished a sequence that had possession going rat-a-tat between him, Grealish, İlkay Gündogan and Silva. It came back to the No 47, whose finish beat De Gea at his right post, going over Raphaël Varane's shoulder.

Grealish had already caused Diogo Dalot to be booked very early on and

his penchant for dribbling engineered an opening from which City went close to a second. After he skipped beyond Fernandes, Lisandro Martínez upended the left wingman; Gündogan's dead-ball curved away from De Gea and clipped the post.

This was already riot from those in blue. Further disturbance occurred when the potent Grealish tapped to Silva and his drag-back was met by Foden, who should not have missed.

United could not stop City pouring through them. Manuel Akanji, in for a surprisingly dropped Rúben Dias, showed one way when floating the ball over the top to Kyle Walker, as Guardiola's men enjoyed what United craved: total control – this despite their midfield metronome, Rodri, an absentee due to injury.

There was then zero surprise at what happened next. Varane had gone down near the area, causing Fernandes to unload at Michael Oliver when the referee allowed the contest to continue. The passage ended in a City corner, Varane went off for treatment and De Bruyne swung the kick in. Up rose Haaland, whom Christian Eriksen, McTominay and Dalot could not stop heading home.

Finish No 16 of the campaign for the Norwegian soon ensued, his partner in goal-plundering again De Bruyne. The latter wandered forward and delivered one of his slicing parabolas which left Varane out of position and Haaland in the perfect spot to slide in.

Cue Varane being replaced by Victor Lindelöf. Walker also had to be removed, for Sergio Gómez, who went to left-back, João Cancelo switching to the right.

For his next trick Haaland turned provider. De Bruyne, too, had an inevitable part feeding the 22-year-old who bent his run and drilled over a sweet ball Foden swept past De Gea. All of a blue persuasion were in raptures.

For the second half Luke Shaw replaced Tyrell Malacia but instantly De Gea had to parry from Foden, who skated through the left-back's corridor and went close. Guardiola having a fit at 4-0 up when Gómez failed to ping a ball forward was an instructive sight. Perhaps he could smell how Antony was soon to career past Grealish and the dozing Gómez before letting fly to ripple the City net.

Ten Hag made like-for-like switches in Casemiro for McTominay and Martial for Rashford leaving Cristiano Ronaldo benched, the Portuguese's response a pout.

Haaland's third ended a classic City move that had De Bruyne one-two-ing with Grealish, the Belgian passing to Gómez whose delivery was smacked in by the lethal marksman.

Martial bundled one beyond Ederon for 6-2 and there was still time to score a penalty after Cancelo fouled him in the area. But 6-3 seriously flattered United, who have to recover quickly from this.

**Manchester City**  
4-1-2-3  
Ederson; Walker (Gómez 41), Akanji, Aké, Cancelo; Gündogan (Laporte 75); De Bruyne (Álvarez 75), Silva; Foden (Mahrez 75), Haaland, Grealish (Palmer 75)  
Subs not used: Ortega, Carson, Dias, Lewis

Referee Michael Oliver

**Manchester United**  
4-2-3-1  
De Gea; Dalot, Varane (Lindelöf 40), Martínez, Malacia (Shaw 41); Eriksen, McTominay (Casemiro 59); Antony, Fernandes, Sancho (Fred 70); Rashford (Martial 59)  
Subs not used: Heaton, Ronaldo, Pellistri, Elanga

## Analysis Barney Ronay



# Insatiable Nordic goal-devourer spearheads a team of beauty playing high-speed digital game

**Y**eah, not bad." With 44 minutes gone at the Etihad Stadium Manchester City scored a goal that brought the usual cheers and roars, but also something else, the urge to laugh.

City had already spent the first half playing football that seemed to have benefited from an operating system upgrade, demonstrating the latest miracle processor against a batch of red-shirted patsies. The move to make it 4-0 was a moment of super-compression, lines cut in a perfect zigzag from outside City's penalty area to the far left-hand corner of the Manchester United goal without friction or drag or loss of scale.

It took eight touches to make it, starting with Kevin De Bruyne surging through the centre, shrugging Christian Eriksen off like a rugby centre while delivering a fine touch to Erling Haaland. The pass basically told Haaland what to do. He took one touch to make the space then curled a dream of a pass that took out three defenders and found Phil Foden, already networked into this, already in the chat, bullocking through to zing the ball into the corner.

And in that moment 4-0 really didn't feel like a stretch, or a surprise, or even much of a humiliation for United, who had spent that half chasing ghosts and shadows, shapes at the edge of their eyeline.

By the end a 6-3 defeat was even quite generous. But then this was also a strange game, not the usual thrashing, some tactical oversight exploited, or a career-high

performance. It felt like something else, the result of unarguable maths. On the one hand a mortal, everyday football team, all joins and cuts and snagged gears. On the other a blend of pure imagination and bottomless resources, 12 years in the making, finessed and refined to create this fine pitch of touch and movement. And yes Haaland was right. It wasn't bad.

Haaland will draw the eye naturally. He scored a brilliant hat-trick and never at any stage looked like doing anything other than scoring a brilliant hat-trick. All being well Haaland will score 78 league goals this season at his current rate. This is obviously an impossibility. Something will happen to stop him scoring. But what exactly? It's not like he's on a hot streak or playing above himself.

After that poor start in the Community Shield some cautious judges had suggested Haaland would take time to settle at City. And they were right. It did take time. It took one game. "If I time my runs properly I know that no one can stop them," he said before this game. This might sound like arrogance from another footballer. With Haaland it's just true. He's run the numbers. It's empirical fact. Just letting you know.

Haaland's first here, City's second, was made by a vast standing jump in from a corner, the

*This was a mortal, everyday football team against a blend of pure imagination and bottomless resources*

kind of leap that is beyond most humans of this size, the kind of leap where Haaland seems briefly to blot out the sun. His second (3-0) was a hooked left-foot finish from one of those De Bruyne passes that step outside the usual categories of cross and through ball to create some new kind of trajectory, an angle that exists at De Bruyne degrees to the earth.

Later Haaland helped make Foden's own hat-trick goal, and this was slack from United, who allowed Haaland to turn and find a pass. It has become a commonplace to suggest Haaland resembles an adult playing with children. This was like an adult playing with mediocre children.

For all the starry moments a big part of what City did here was their defensive cover and the architecture of the midfield. They counter-pressed fiercely. There was a glimpse of how Pep Guardiola might make this iteration work in a high-speed opening spell in which Jack Grealish and Foden stayed wide, while De Bruyne kept shifting sides to double up: like some super-slick version of old-school 4-4-2, Wilcox and Ripley with Shearer in the middle, but replaced by a blur of blue-shirted overlaps and an insatiable Nordic goal-devourer.

The game was over by half-time, and even more over by the time both teams emptied their benches. Perhaps Erik ten Hag might take heart from winning the second half 3-2, a deceleration that felt like a note of early-season misdirection from City, like Shane Warne spending two days bowling badly at Graeme Hick before the first Test just to keep a little mystery.

What really happened here was United met opponents operating on another plane, high-speed digital football versus a kind of hand-cranked dial-up version, football yelled down a piece of twine between two cans.

What are we to make of this? Are there notes of doom in City's brilliance? The president of La Liga, Javier Tebas, spoke again this weekend about nation-state super-clubs skewing the field, killing competition and so on.

But that kind of talk just doesn't add up at this elite level. Both of these teams have spent vast amounts of money, as have Real Madrid and Barcelona.

The difference is that City have done it well, have cheated by removing human frailty, short-term commercial greed, boardroom stupidity from the equation. Chuck in bottomless resources and the greatest coach in the world and the result is this: something without edges or drag, a project that will perhaps soon reach its final expression; and which in Guardiola's hands remains unarguably a thing of beauty.



▼ Manchester City fans do the Poznan to celebrate another goal  
MICHAEL REGAN/GETTY IMAGES



**Bumpy ride**  
Yehualaw gets up from nasty faceplant to win marathon and make history

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**Stadium crush**  
Why football in Indonesia is no stranger to tragedy

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The Guardian  
Monday 3 October 2022

# Sport



**Moeen hopeful for World Cup after Pakistan series victory**

Andy Bull  
Lahore

England's stand-in Twenty20 captain, Moeen Ali, believes the team are ready for a tilt at the World Cup in Australia after clinching a 4-3 series win against Pakistan with a 67-run victory in the decider in Lahore.

"If you look at the last two games of this series, both must-win matches, going into a World Cup that's really important, because the pressure to perform was huge," Moeen said. "We're in a very good position now going into the World Cup."

Moeen stopped short of describing them as favourites. "But I know we're a very dangerous team to play and a lot of teams will fear playing us." England will find out how they measure up against Australia in Perth this Sunday, when they play the first of three more T20 matches.

Moeen was particularly frustrated by the fourth and fifth matches of this series, which his team lost while chasing low totals. "In the end, we'll look back and think if we were really on it we would have won 6-1 in this series, so we were disappointed with those two in particular."

In the end, though, this tour was not about runs and wickets, or even the World Cup. This tour was about the renewal of an old and occasionally testy friendship between the two countries. It had been badly damaged by England's decision last year to pull out of their first tour since 2005.

That is all forgotten. After this tour, the friendship between the teams is as strong as it has ever been. "It's been amazing to be back here and playing cricket here once again after 17 years," Moeen said. "Even before the cricket started, it was a big thing for us to come here. It's a privilege."

Match report Page 36 →



Moeen Ali says England will be a team to fear at the T20 World Cup

**'Not brave enough'**  
Ten Hag tears into dire United after City frenzy



Manchester City

6

Foden 8 44 72,  
Haaland 34 37 64



Manchester United

3

Antony 56,  
Martial 84 90pen

▲ Erling Haaland scored his third consecutive home treble in the win against Manchester United

MATT McNULTY/  
MANCHESTER CITY FC/GETTY IMAGES

Jamie Jackson  
Etihad Stadium

Erik ten Hag told his Manchester United players they lacked belief and said they folded like a "pack of cards", after they were humiliated 6-3 by Manchester City.

Erling Haaland and Phil Foden each scored hat-tricks, taking City up to second in the table, a point behind Arsenal. Antony and Anthony Martial (with two) scored for United.

Ten Hag said: "It's a lack of belief. When you don't believe on the pitch

then you can't win games: that is unacceptable. The plan was to show bravery and confidence but we didn't from the first minute. We left Haaland and we were not tight. For the first goal we won the ball and could have created a great chance but instead we gave it easily away and then it was like a pack of cards.

"We get undisciplined at following rules and you get hammered. For me it was a surprise. We were not on the front foot, we were not brave on the ball and there were spaces to play but we were not brave enough.

"I told them. Me as well, because I

didn't get the message through. With this lack of confidence we cannot win games. I don't think this attitude is Manchester United, we can act much more brave. We are in the process and I knew before that big teams like City, when you are not good you get hammered and we were not good. We didn't follow the rules of the way we play and you get hammered. We have to accept that but this performance was not acceptable."

Ten Hag said United being so poor was why Cristiano Ronaldo remained an unused substitute. "I wouldn't bring him in because out of respect

for Cristiano, for his big career," the manager said.

Many United fans left at half-time with their team trailing 4-0. "Yes, of course, in a derby when you are 4-0 it is unacceptable," Ten Hag said.

The manager suggested there would not be a repeat of the punishment of his team having to do extra running after the 4-0 defeat at Brentford. "That was because they outran us and we didn't work hard enough. It's not always about punishment, we have to criticise each other."

Report and analysis Pages 40-41 →





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TAYLOR MATTHIAS ALESSANDRO WITH RAMI AND ROBERT  
SWIFT SCHOENAERTS NIVOLA MALEK DE NIRO



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